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Farm and Ranch REVIEW

December, 1951

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A Merry Christmas to All

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GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Announces the Third Annual

MASTER FARM FAMILY AWARD

for 1951 to the following:

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WILLINGDON, Alberta

J. W. Hosford,
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Floyd Gilkyson,
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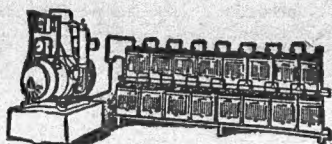
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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By LOUISE PRICE BELL

CHILDREN are an integral part of Yuletide, as we all know. Make them feel that part, help with the preparations, share in the joy that they have for the season. Let one of the children—the youngest one, perhaps — pose for an informal snapshot with her arms filled with holly, poinsettias, or any Christmas greens; these snaps, mounted on red cardboard or heavy construction paper will make the most acceptable Christmas cards you could possibly send your friends. And the smiling little model will be very proud to be the one to convey the family's greetings.

If you are fortunate enough to have any Christmas greens on your land that some neigh-

bor down the road doesn't have, let small Sunny take an armful of them to sweet Mrs. Sherwood, as a suggestion for a mantel decoration. The child will be proud and happy to bring pleasure to her much-admired neighbor and the act will give her the feeling of sharing which after all is the most important thing about Christmas. Once children get the sharing spirit, in place of the "Gimme" one, they are on the way to understanding what the gifts at holiday time mean. Behind it all is the most beautiful story ever told — that of the Holy Babe born so many years ago — and sharing the many blessings and pleasures we have helps young children to grasp the full import of Yuletide at an early age.

Hard to tell which person is happier — Sunny, or Mrs. Sherwood — but probably Sunny because she is "sharing".



The Farm and Ranch Review

Graphic Arts Bldg., Calgary, Alberta

Vol. XLVII.

Founded in 1905 by Chas. W. Peterson

No. 12

James H. Gray, Editor

P. Peterson, Advertising Manager

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Published Monthly by
Farm and Ranch Review Limited.
Printed by Western Printing &
Lithographing Co. Ltd.
Graphic Arts Bldg., Calgary, Alta.
Entered as Second-class Mail
Matter at the Post Office,
Calgary, Alberta.

Member of the
Audit Bureau of Circulations
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Toronto, Ont.

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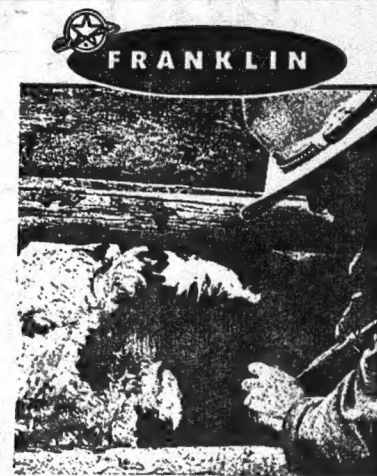
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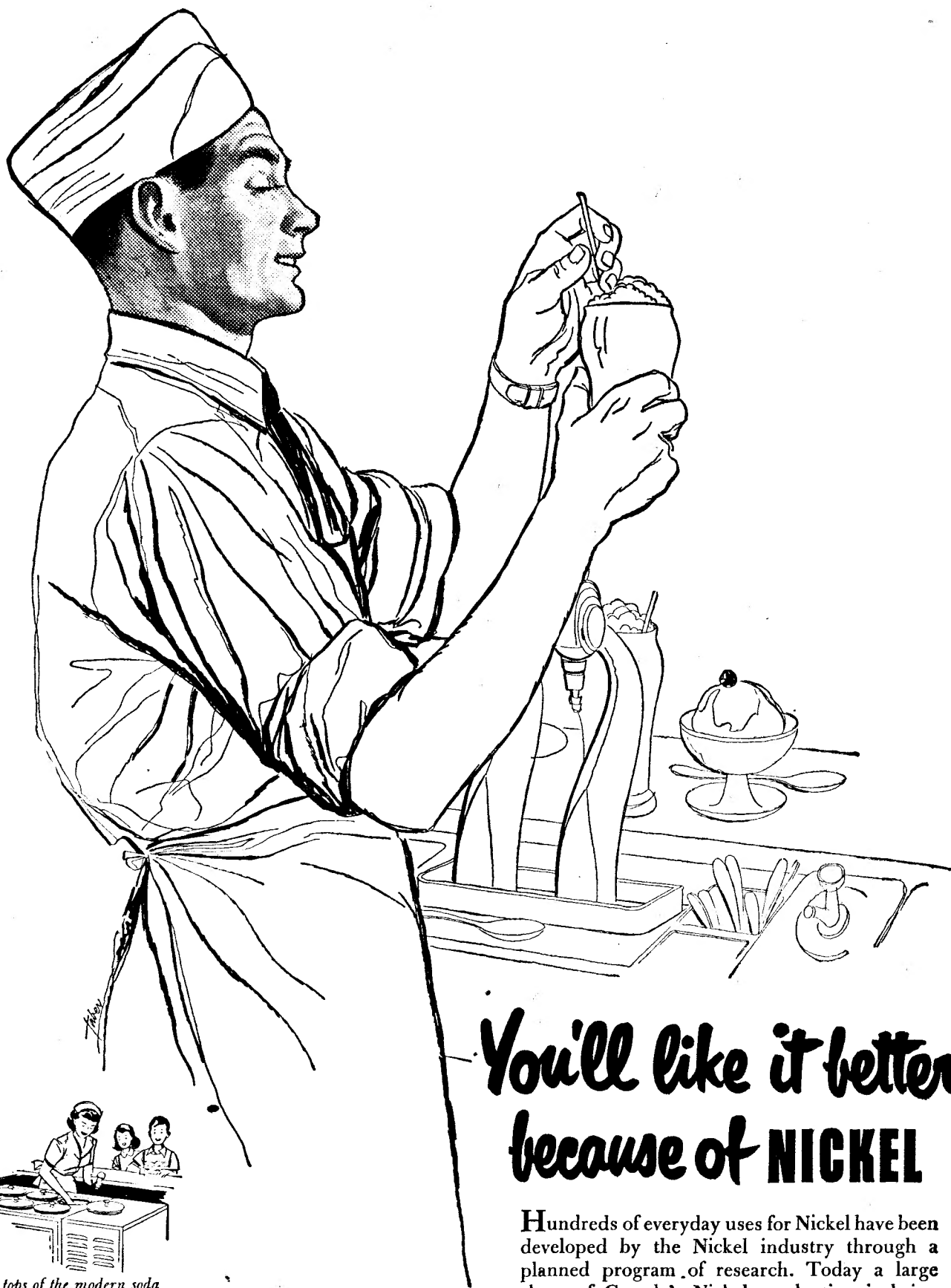
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The Farm and Ranch Editorial Page...

The Manitoba verdict vindicates the Wheat Board and Pool leaders

THE vote of the farmers of Manitoba on the coarse grain plebiscite is surely a stinging rebuke to all the anti-Wheat Board propagandists. It is more than that, it is a cold, sober verdict on the whole futures market system, rendered by the producers who have had the time for dispassionate judgment.

Fifteen years ago such a verdict might have been called into question. Standing in the midst of economic desolation which the futures market had helped to cause and had proved powerless to cure, the farmers might have been accused of being emotionally upset. But the last five years have been the best the West has ever known. Prosperity has a mellowing affect on judgment. Yet a verdict rendered by the farmers of the hungry thirties could hardly have been any more overwhelming than that brought in by the nine-out-of-ten vote in Manitoba in 1951.

The blunt truth of the matter is this: The producers of the west have been so badly soul-sored by the shuttling, three-shell-game, futures market system that they are through with it forever. Year after year of meteoric price rises, when they had no crop to sell, and pummeting prices, when they had a crop, utterly destroyed faith in such a system.

In the last five years they have found that there is a better way. Through the Wheat Board, they have got highly profitable prices for their crops in bumper years as well as in bad years. They have been freed from the nervous strain of a system that dangled fancy prices before their eyes one day, ruinous prices the next. Through the Wheat Board system, they have discovered that they can plan their whole year's operation in advance, in the sure knowledge that they will not face ruin at the end by the vagaries of the climate.

The verdict also demonstrates how hol-

low have been the pretensions of the Grain Exchange tub thumpers that the Wheat Board system had destroyed a basic freedom of the producers. It exposes the sham in their contention that Prairie farmers were being enslaved against their will by a system they did not want. It destroys the myth that the Wheat Board was created by the leaders of the Western Wheat Pools in a thirsty grab for power.

Still another conclusion from the verdict is this: It demonstrates the soundness of agrarian thinking which cannot be stampeded by sheer noise. The strident pro-Grain Exchange propaganda, which at times descended to personal abuse of Wheat Pool leaders, fell upon impervious minds. The producers had had experience with both systems. They knew from that experience which system was best. They could be neither dissuaded nor stampeded. They went to the polls and voted almost unanimously for the Wheat Board system.

Above all, this verdict is a wonderful vindication of the leaders of the Wheat Pools, not only present but past. The founding fathers of the Pools had a firm grasp of an ideal. Because they were farmers, they knew a better system of marketing had to be devised. They married idealism and disgust with the futures market system and the result was the Wheat Pools. Through valleys of darkness, over almost insuperable handicaps, they held fast to their principles. Because they did, the producers of the west eventually got the kind of marketing system that fits their needs. Perhaps from now on, when the people of Canada want to know what the farmers are thinking, they will listen to these vindicated farm leaders; not to the city journals which have been utterly discredited by the pro-Wheat Board landslide in Manitoba.

is that we will pay perhaps 120 per cent in order to get back 100 per cent, though the third of us who will die before 70 will never collect a thin dime.

Canadians as producers and consumers not only pay the income tax portion, they pay all the sales tax portion and all the corporation tax portion.

Corporation taxes are a cost of doing business. When any Canadian business concern is computing its overhead, which is a basic figure in setting sales prices, the corporation tax is included. The reasoning is this:

Suppose on the basis of the amount of money invested in a business, the owner decides he has to shoot for a net return of \$25,000 a year. He estimates what his rent, heat, light, wages, materials, depreciation, etc., will be. Each unit of sales will carry a proportion of that load. All the so-called free benefits which he has granted to his employees; workmen's compensation, holidays with pay, sick and accident benefits, pensions, etc., are likewise charged up. Then he computes the size of his margin of profit on whatever goods or services he is selling.

If he does the volume of business expected, he can come very close to estimating his gross profit. From that, however, he must deduct his corporation taxes. So in order to get \$25,000 net he has to budget for a gross profit of perhaps \$50,000. Naturally that is what every business concern does. They incorporate the corporation tax into their cost structure before they arrive at selling prices.

In the beginning, when this tax was new, and when it was increased suddenly without notice, the corporation tax did affect corporation profits. Not any more. As a general rule, even with corporation taxes close to the heaviest point in peacetime history, the net profits of corporations after taxes are paid are also at an all-time peak.

The same facts hold for the sales tax. This levy, like the corporation tax, is from any practical viewpoint, a direct levy on the incomes of all the farmers and wage earners in the country. And it is a greater levy in the end than the actual amount of the tax. Another example!

Let's say that the retail mark-up on a suit of clothes is 40 per cent. The wholesale price of a suit is \$40 and the retail price will be \$56.00. The wholesale price includes the 10 per cent sales tax plus the wholesale and manufacturing corporation taxes. Without either of these taxes, the wholesale cost might be \$32.00. Add 40 per cent to that and the retail price would be \$44.80. Thus when taxes of \$8 are hidden in the cost price of a suit, they swell to \$11.20 when they reach the selling price. Actually, the spread is even greater for the 40 per cent mark-up of the retailer includes his own corporation taxes.

These are the facts of life of Canadian business. All this is business arithmetic at the kindergarten level. Yet when it comes to thinking about so-called security measures, Canadians have developed a positive genius for ignoring facts. The cost of Old Age Pensions, like the cost of unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, health insurance, etc., must be paid for out of the standard of living of the Canadian people. There is no other way in which these vast sums can be raised. Anybody who tells you there is is either a charlatan or a boob, or both.

Corporations don't pay corporation taxes

EASILY one of the most popular illusions in this country is that corporations pay corporation taxes. The working of this illusion can be seen in the way the Federal Government is proposing to finance the Old Age Pension. It is, in this connection, putting on a performance very much akin to that of a stage magician who piles illusion upon illusion in baffling profusion. There is one difference. The magician knows all the tricks whereas the Government seems to

wind up fooling itself.

To get the picture clearly, let's take a quick run at the facts. The cost of the pension scheme will run to around \$350,000,000. This sum will be raised by three two-per-cent taxes, on incomes, on corporations and from the sales tax. At first glance, this looks like a good deal for all of us ordinary citizens. We'll pay about 30 per cent of the cost of the scheme as income tax and eventually get back 100 per cent. The fact

Farm and Ranch Editorials

Grain is still king despite the oil boom

IF the terrible fall we have been having does nothing else, it should have some value in getting our perspective back into focus. For the last few years, a stranger who took newspapers and politicians seriously might well have concluded the Prairies live on oil and gas. It has taken a bad year to bring us all back to the realization that the real wealth and real prosperity of this country comes from the soil.

This should have been one of the greatest years the West has known. But with so much of our crop lying unthreshed under the snow, business has been at a virtual standstill in many areas. The merchants in the cities and towns have been spending most of their time standing around wondering where all their customers have disappeared to.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics is now engaged in revising downward its estimate of the Alberta crop. Between September 1 and November 15th, it cut 20,000,000 bushels from the Alberta Wheat Crop, 6,000,000 from oats and 4,000,000 from barley. There is good reason to assume that these revisions are conservative, just as the first figures on the coarse grain crops were undoubtedly conservative.

But let's accept those figures. What do they mean? On the basis of quantity alone, the bad weather of this fall has cost the farmers of Alberta \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 in cold, hard cash. But quantity tells only part of the story, the least important part. It takes no account of the farmer who had 100 bushels of seed grade oats per acre. These oats would have brought him \$120 as seed. Because the frost ruined them he'll get perhaps \$30 or \$40 for them as green feed. Thus, in the overall picture, the grade loss may run to another \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000.

That is a cash loss of around \$80,000,000 which the farmers of Alberta will never get their hands on. We don't have any reliable figures, but we suspect that this is a good deal more than all the foreign oil companies spent on exploration in Alberta in the past year. It equals, if it does not exceed, the entire income of the Alberta Government from sale of Alberta oil rights to foreign interests since the discovery of Leduc.

Consider, then, the volume of speech-making and tub thumping there has been about the boon to Alberta from the influx

of foreign capital. It amounts, in the aggregate to about the loss the farmers of Alberta suffered in one year from a series of early frosts and blizzards.

True, when we eventually get this crop off, it will be worth something. A rough calculation from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures would place the value of that crop in the neighborhood of \$450,000,000. All the oil wells in Alberta are currently producing about \$150,000,000 worth of oil a year. So the grain farmers of Alberta, despite all the hullabaloo about oil, are still three times as important to the economy of Canada as the oil industry.

That is true on the sheer volume of wealth produced. More important is the disposition of this wealth. Every dollar of the new wealth produced by agriculture finds its way into the hands of the people of Alberta. It is spent in Alberta and the spending enables the non-farm community to live and prosper. But with oil it is different. The profits that will accrue from the production of oil will go, either now or later, to the American owners of the oil. Those profits will neither be taxed nor spent in Alberta.

If, in such a year as this has been, the farmers of Alberta owned their own oil rights, as American farmers do, they would have had a wonderful cushion on which to ride over the bumps. Instead, the Government reaps the cash benefits from the oil boom, while the farmers are forced to take their losses and solve their problems as best they can.

Farm and Ranch readers will understand that there is no disposition here to belittle the oil industry or what the discovery of oil has meant to Alberta. Ultimately, the development of the natural resources of Alberta could mean far greater population and closer to home markets for the produce of our farms. But there is a difference between the achieved and the potential. At the moment, grain production is still three times as important to Alberta, and hundreds of times as important to Saskatchewan, as oil production.

The farmer is still by far the most important figure in our whole scheme of things. When he prospers the country prospers. When he suffers, the country suffers. So let's take time out occasionally to get our thinking into focus and put the emphasis where it belongs.

The tariff still depresses the Canadian living standard

ON page 7 of this issue we have reprinted a speech made in the House of Commons by the veteran Maritimer, A. W. Stuart, M.P. In this speech Mr. Stuart has cited example after example of the disparity in prices between the United States and Canada. In his criticism, Mr. Stuart confined himself to "American" goods. That is, brands manufactured by American companies that have established factories in Canada and are protected here by the tariff.

The speech will have a familiar ring to Farm and Ranch readers. It is the sort of speech that everybody used to make on the Prairies in the old days before we were seduced by the gaudy theories of the Socialists and Social Crediters. Both regard protection as essential to the operation of their theories. If either achieved power they would make the economic nationalism of the late R. B. Bennett look like free trade by comparison. But as Mr. Stuart demon-

strates, the tariff is one of the prime factors in the spiralling Canadian cost of living. The tariff problem is not something that will disappear if we ignore it.

The standard argument that is used to justify tariff protection for the American branch plants that locate in Canada is that they provide good jobs for Canadians. It is a sound argument for the industrialization of Ontario and Quebec has doubled the population of those provinces. Yet even when it is conceded that the Canadian market is much smaller than the American, the exorbitant prices charged for these "Made in Canada" American goods cannot be justified.

We Canadians ought to be able to buy these goods at or very near the American price. Instead we generally are called upon to pay 50 per cent more. It is this whopping price that undoes the "jobs" argument. For example, suppose that instead of making any soap at all, we paid all the employees engaged in soap manufacture to go out and sit in the sun. We would then get all our soap from the U.S. at U.S. prices. A very few cents tacked onto those prices would pay for the wages of all the soap workers who made no soap. And even then we'd get much cheaper soap.

Aside from the lowering of our standard of living in the West, the result of this protectionist policy over the years has been to build up a terrific debt to the United States. American investment in Canada has now zoomed above the \$5 billion mark. It is growing greater by the day; not by the investment of U.S. dollars in Canada but by the reinvestment of profits earned in Canada behind the tariff wall. It is doubtful from the beginning that the actual cash investment of all the American companies exceeds much over a fifth of the value of their current holdings. That investment has grown like a snowball rolling down hill.

Servicing this debt, paying interest on it, is a heavy burden to the Canadian economy. Yet the very size of the debt can be turned to our advantage. When the investments of these huge electrical, soap and machine giants were small, they could have afforded to shut up shop if a Customs Union went into effect with the United States. They could have written off the losses and closed their plants. The great size of their investments in Canada make that most unlikely today.

They own the bricks and mortar and land of these industrial giants that sprawl across the landscape of eastern Canada. They cannot afford to allow these plants to lie idle. True, there would be frightful waves of protest, but when their pleas for tariff protection proved futile the factories would be back in business.

The Canadian farm machinery industry has demonstrated that it can compete with U.S. industry on equal terms without a tariff. It is currently enjoying the most profitable years of its life. If it can do it, so can the soap industry, the automotive and electrical industries and all others currently enjoying protection.

There is, however, one caveat that must be entered in the comparative price argument. The tariff is not the only villain in the piece. The Canadian sales tax is much higher than anything in the United States. On many items, it bulks larger in the selling price than does the tariff. Nevertheless, the day after a Customs Union was arranged with the United States, there would be a rapid drop in the cost of Canadian living.

THE very articles that are responsible for the high cost of living in the United States and Canada today have never been mentioned. For that reason I should like to name a few manufactured articles that I am sure will convince honorable members there is a very unfair difference between the prices paid in the United States and the prices we are obliged to pay in Canada. In my opinion it is purely tariff protection that is responsible for the variation.

Most of the articles to which I shall refer are manufactured in the United States by exactly the same people who manufacture them in Canada. In most instances it will be the same company. In my opinion, many of these companies are fine examples of monopolies. They should be dealt with as monopolies.

I might suggest to honorable members at this time that the match industry in Canada is not the only monopoly that could be found within those borders. I believe there are many more, and I believe the public should know about them. I do not believe we should conceal them for one second. For that reason I want to mention a few, and I may use names.

The first things I will mention will be small articles, necessities in every household in the Dominion of Canada. For instance, let us take toothpaste. That is something most of us should use, if we do not. There are many brands. There is Ipana, Pepsodent, Colgate's, and many others. Each and every one of those brands is manufactured by exactly the same firm in the United States that manufactures them in Canada. When I came up here three weeks ago I came through the United States. I bought a large tube of toothpaste, which is manufactured by the same company on both sides of the border. That tube of toothpaste costs 60 cents in every state of the union, but it is 95 cents in Canada.

If there is any justification for a difference of 35 cents on a tube of toothpaste I should like some of the manufacturers to appear before a committee of the House of Commons and explain it. If they can explain it to me, and if there is any justification for their asking that price for it, then I will have no more to argue about. If they can convince me that they are justified in asking that price, then I am through.

We will now come to soap and soap flakes, articles that are used in every home in the Dominion of Canada.

We can take Rinso, Duz, or any other you might wish to name. Take any brand you wish to choose; take the price in the United States and the price in Canada, and you will find a difference of 35 to 50 per cent. There are some soaps that I can buy in the city of

American goods at Canadian prices

(From a speech by A. W. STUART, M.P., in the House of Commons)

Calais at two for a quarter which cost 25 cents a cake in Canada. If the soap manufacturers can explain that one away, again I have no argument left.

These are the things that are responsible for the high cost of living in this country today. When people tell me that the increase in the cost of living in the United States has not been as rapid as it has been in Canada, may I say that to anyone living on the border the reason is quite plain. There is no justification for a difference of from 30 per cent to 50 per cent, and in some cases 100 per cent, as I will show the house in a minute. I would suggest that the articles I have pointed out are glaring examples of monopolies. We pay for all the radio advertising that goes on. It is all included in the price of the goods; I realize that. But they do not do any more advertising in Canada than is done in the United States. All I ask them to do is to explain this great difference in prices.

I want to mention one other thing just briefly because I have not the facts and figures before me. Insulin is a drug that is used today by thousands of Canadians. Diabetics all over the country must have insulin in order to live. When you get a difference of from 50 per cent to 100 per cent in the cost of insulin as between the United States and Canada you are convinced that something is wrong somewhere. I cannot vouch for it, but I have been told that the drug firms that produce insulin in Canada are subsidized by this government, though that is not firsthand information. A

friend of mine in the town where I live informed me that he could buy insulin in Calais, Maine, for about 60 per cent of what he could buy it in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Is that right? Should that go on? This is something needed by a small portion of our population, but many of them cannot afford the prices being charged in Canada at the present time.

I shall get back to my old theme song, and that is electrical appliances. I love to talk about them. It is only a few years ago that the General Electric company purchased a very beautiful plant in Hamilton. My good friend the honorable member for Hamilton East (Mr. Ross) and some of the other boys around there were told the company was going to give us electrical appliances for the same prices that were charged in the United States. They were going to roll off the assembly line in just a few months.

To the best of my knowledge that assembly is not a dream; it is there. But I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the commodities that roll off that assembly line have quite different price tags on them than in the United States. One could take radios, vacuum cleaners, toasters, washing machines, refrigerators and oil burners, and there are dozens of others I could name if I wished.

In nine cases out of ten they are manufactured in Canada by the same manufacturer who produces them in the United States. But when you compare the prices you find there is something wrong somewhere. I

have made this statement before, and I wish to put it on the record again.

I live on the bank of the St. Croix river, and you can throw a stone across to the other side. On one side of that border an electric refrigerator sells for \$225.00. If you walk across the little bridge to the other side it sells for \$460.00. It is made by the same company. If there is any justification for that I should like to have some official of the General Electric or these other companies who manufacture electrical appliances appear before a committee of this house and explain to the members why there is that great differential. I cannot understand it. It is a bone of contention for every member who represents a constituency bordering upon the United States.

One other thing I want to mention is farm machinery. Again this is not information which I have obtained myself, but it has been given to me by friends in this house. A few years ago the duty on farm machinery from the United States was cut by the government. At that time there was a great disturbance amongst the manufacturers in Canada. I am told that today all these different machines which are so necessary for modern farming can be purchased for the same price in Canada as in the United States. Who would be responsible for that change?

I was a young man in 1927 when the former Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, stood up in this house and said he was going to cut the duty on automobiles by 25 per cent. Immediately afterwards the greatest number of delegates arrived on parliament hill that have ever been here or ever will be here. If the duty on automobiles was cut the manufacturers in Canada would be obliged to close their doors. I remember reading that, because it was headlined in every newspaper you picked up. The prime minister stood by his guns and the duty was cut. If one goes over the record as shown in the Automobile Guide one finds that more automobiles were sold in Canada in 1929 than we ever sold before that figure was ever passed. This would seem to indicate that articles can be manufactured in Canada at nearly the same cost as in the United States whenever the manufacturers are forced to do so. So long as they have the tariff protection their costs will be based on the cost in the United States, plus the duty, plus sales tax, plus defence tax, and 2 per cent on top of that. That is just enough to make sure that people will not go through all the red tape necessary to buy in the United States and bring the article into Canada. Every Canadian citizen would be justified in so doing. I do not believe in supporting monopolies, particularly within our own country.

Christmas Morning



This attractive Christmas picture was sent in by Mrs. H. E. Francis, Box 393, Taber, Alta.

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They had fun and games in the old days, too

By GILEAN DOUGLAS

WHEN you kiss anyone under the mistletoe you are supposed to pluck off a berry and when all the berries are gone you must stop kissing! That's the way it goes through the merry Christmas season, but then comes the night when the mistletoe comes down, the holly and greens are burned in fireplace or stove, the rainbow balls and silver icicles packed carefully away. It's Twelfth Night and the exciting days of Yule are over.

Shakespeare wrote a play about it, monks kept vigil in it, famous musicians composed music for it, yet to most of us it means only January the 5th when we throw out the Christmas tree. But to many British and Continental families it is a great deal more than that. They call it Little Christmas or Old Christmas; the night before the Feast of the Epiphany and a time of carnival.

Big Night

The Britain of feudal days was loud with merrymaking on Twelfth Night and many of the riotous games played then were a survival of the old Roman Saturnalia. The joys of Yule were hardly gone and so everyone had a merry heart for the festivities. Masques were very popular and even up to the beginning of this century it was the usual thing for Twelfth Night cards to be drawn by lot to see who would have the different roles of King, Queen, courtier and so on.

Sometimes a big Twelfth-cake was produced, containing a coin or a bean. The person who got the lucky slice became the King or Queen of the evening. Two theatrical Twelfth Night cakes were cut in London, England, last year: one on the stage at the New and the other in the foyer of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The Drury Lane cake dates back to 1796 and is in memory of Robert Baddeley, who left one hundred pounds to ensure that he would be remembered in this way. The "Oklahoma" company was still playing in the Royal last Twelfth Night and so for the third year running they drank Baddeley's health in a punch made from a secret recipe kept in the theatre safe. The other cake weighed "half a hundred weight" and was followed by Twelfth Night revels at which a ballet company sang and an opera company danced a ballet.

A Twelfth Night game which delighted the Victorians was called "Snapdragon", with prizes of raisins in burning brandy—and much sucking of burned fingers! This custom originated in pagan ceremonies of southern Europe, which were also the origin of that bowl of nuts and raisins which graces Christmas tables. Something

else which has survived is the carolling of the wassailer or reveller who used to go around rural England in December and January singing lustily. Perhaps his counterpart of today leans against a lamp post and bellows "Sweet Adeline."

Still Sing

Up until very recently the apple trees of Devon were most heartily wassailed in cider to induce them to bear well. Yet the true carol singers still make their rounds in the town and



ACCORDING to the familiar old carol, St. Joseph was an old man. He probably was considerably older than Mary, but people may have thought of him as being older than he actually was because he enjoyed earnest conversation and the companionship of selected friends rather than boisterous pleasures.

When Joseph thought of Mary, he forgot the difference in their ages: she was the girl he had waited for, his beloved. They were espoused—or as we would say, engaged—which was almost as official as being married. His heart soared on wings of the approaching wedding day, and then...

What Mary insisted had come to pass, simply could not be! Joseph wanted desperately to believe Mary, but such things just didn't happen, and if they did, they happened to somebody else.

Much as he loved Mary, Joseph was a righteous and God-fearing man and while he couldn't even think of making her a public example, he had just about made up his mind to put her away privily. That is, he thought he had made up his mind. In his heart, he knew he couldn't; what would become of her... of her child.

Then one night, after he had exhausted himself with tortured thinking, he fell asleep and the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream: saying,

"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not..."

And when Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had bidden him, and took Mary as his lawful and cherished wife.

country districts of that land which first began to be called "Merrie England" after Henry the First married Good Queen Mold or Matilda. The Waits, or town musicians, were originally members of the Royal Household, but later they were appointed by the town and had official function at Yuletide. As late as 1825 these appointments were made in London and Westminster, where the Waits doubled as Nightwatch. In that capacity they went through the streets calling the hour and assuring those who were trying to sleep that "All is well!" If all wasn't well they said so too and rather took on the aspects of a party line.

Yes, many old Yuletide customs have been lost entirely and others are so changed as to be hardly recognizable. The heralds who used to usher in the Boar's Head, proclaim war and peace, carry messages between sovereigns, bring challenges to battle — where are they now? In England they still retain the first function and continue to direct royal pageants and ceremonies. But now they trace family trees also, record the elevation of peers, attend to matters of precedence, while the long trumpets give silver note more and more infrequently. "Ring out the old, ring in the new!" Mistletoe-kissing is over, so down with the waxen berries and bright green leaves!

Did It Heal?

But as you do it think, too, of the healing properties which were once attributed to that

mistletoe and of how Balder, the Norse God of Light was killed by a splinter made from its wood by blind Hoder, the God of Darkness. This was supposed to have happened when the cold twilight of winter descended on the north and it seemed as though spring were gone forever. But ancient Balder suffered no more from the mistletoe than did the medieval birds whom Elizabethans and other Europeans delighted to kill with bird lime made from mistletoe or holly.

The bark was boiled in water for 8 hours and then left to ferment for several weeks until it became like mucilage. After that it was pounded in a mortar and kneaded under water until it was strong enough to entangle mice as well as poor, pretty songsters that someone wanted for a potpie. The "holye mistletoe" was often used for unholy purposes, but the Celtic druids believed that it would cure any sickness if it were plucked from an oak tree on the sixth day of the moon.

Yule to us has come to mean merely Christmas Day or perhaps Christmas Week, but in old times it ran riotously from Christmas Eve to that "Day of Appearance", Epiphany, on which we commemorate the Wise Men and the Star. Then everything was swept and garnished and the Lord of Misrule, who had reigned since All Hallows' Eve, gave way to the Magi. The mistletoe came down, but I have it on good authority that the kissing didn't stop.

NEW YEAR NOT NECESSARILY JANUARY 1

ACCUSTOMED as we are to celebrating New Year's day on the first of January, we are apt to agree with Charles Lamb that "No one ever regarded the First of January with indifference."

But on second thought — or perhaps because we would like to pick on Mr. Lamb a little because our English teachers warned us that we couldn't possibly amount to anything if we didn't like the Essays of Elia — we venture a few observations.

To begin with, prior to September 14, 1752, England and her American colonies regarded January 1 with indifference, at least as far as New Year was concerned, because New Year's day was observed on March 25.

For that matter, many people who continue to use the Gregorian calendar still solemnize traditional feasts, including New Year in accordance with ancient calendars not at all congruent with the one presented

to the world by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. For example:

The Jews observe a 10-day New Year season at the time of the autumn equinox. The observances begin on Rosh Hashana and end on Yom Kippur; Rosh Hashana commemorates the Day of Creation and is also the annual day of Judgment, with that judgment beginning irrevocably sealed on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement); therefore, the spirit of penance dominates the solemnities.

Penance is also a feature of Hindu observances, solemnized in accordance with the ancient lunar calendar during the spring equinox.

The Moslem calendar (dating from 626 A.D.) is unique: the 12 months of the year begin with the approximate new moon without any intercalation to keep them geared to the seasonal equinoxes. Thus the months — and New Years, too — retrograde through the entire year in about 33½ years.

Something important you should know about your husband...

You know him better than anyone else in the world. You know his bad points as well as his good ones. But one of his best points may have escaped your notice.

You know that he doesn't do many of the things he'd like to do with his money — because the family income will only go so far. And you know that he might reasonably spend money freely now — without a thought for your future. But he doesn't.

Regularly, he puts aside money to give you the protection of life insurance. True, he may gain benefit from that insurance during his own life, but that isn't why he owns it. The real reason can be found in his concern for your welfare.

Do you co-operate with his efforts to provide for you in this important way? Are you encouraging his habit of thrift?

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increase is anticipated next year. Quebec is reaching out for new markets.

Quebec has also invaded the far west with a new milk product known as dairy spread, yellow in color, highly important in these days when margarine battles are waged on several fronts.

This spread has low-caloric content, one-third as fattening as butter,—an appeal to dieters with an eye on the waistline.

It is described as being manufactured from fresh pasteurized milk enriched with cream, plus a "stabilizer", coloring, and salt. The stabilizer is a culture, said to be like the one used in yogurt.

This spread, not to be used for cooking, sells at 45 cents per pound in Quebec. Freight to Vancouver is placed at six cents; but a big store sells it at the Quebec price, and absorbs the freight. Budget-conscious housewives are going for it.

Milk and margarine are really in the news; in the headlines, letters to the editor, in City Council chambers, the court house, and the legislature, and lastly in the drugstore windows, where special displays of powdered milk tease the lady-of-the-house away from the serve-self grocery.

Meanwhile Safeway is battling mightily with B.C. Milk Board, a government agency, for a permit to sell at a lower price to the cash-and-carry customer. As the regulations stand now the housewife pays the same for cash-and-carry as for home delivery.

Some independent merchants frown on the proposed permit, believing it would open the way for loss-leaders to lure the folks away from the little one-man corner store.

The Milk Board has not yet ruled on this one.

Then there are the distributors who wish to get permission for every-other-day deliveries in Vancouver in order to reduce their costs. This suggestion raised a howl from consumer groups. They argued that many persons have no refrigeration. Decision on this is also pending.

There was also a big mystery story. Thirty-eight milkmen wondered why "mysterious" men in cars "shadowed" their every move on city streets for two weeks.

They found out at a hearing of the Milk Board that the mystery men were counting bottle deliveries for factual support for Safeway's application for lower milk prices.

Into the high cost of milk controversy, there were cries for subsidies on the part of some consumer groups. Vancouver City Council balked at endorsing milk subsidies, but called upon the federal government to "take such action necessary to maintain an adequate supply of milk for Canadian consumption at reasonable prices."

Some of the distributors also claim they are in the red. One

dairy discontinued city delivery to 5,000 customers because of rising costs of distribution. The dairy will continue in wholesale milk and ice cream business.

"The attorney-general is investigating the possibility that the whole milk price control system is unconstitutional."

Then there was the court case where Hillside Dairy of Cloverdale was fined \$10 for selling milk containing more than 4 per cent butterfat when the regulations of the Milk Board say it shall be no more than 3.6 per cent.

The case was appealed. Judge Harry Sullivan quashed the conviction after finding the prosecution had failed to prove ownership of the milk which had been tested, and ownership of the truck in the case had not been established.

Judge Sullivan said he was not dismissing the case on a constitutional question, but added: "If it was necessary I would say the power of the Milk Board is unconstitutional in this case."

Then there was the flare-up over the Milk Board doubling its fees. The Board's operational expenses come out of levies made upon producers and distributors. Producers who deliver their own milk now pay two cents per 100 pounds; producers who send milk to a distributor pay one cent; distributors pay one cent.

Vancouver Island producers have protested the increase in a letter to Hon. Harry Bowman, provincial minister of agriculture.

One reason for the Milk Board increasing the levy was due to increased costs of operation. Until last summer it was a one-man Board. There were cries of "Dictatorship!" The board was increased to three persons; that meant an additional two salaries.

Vancouver City Council social service committee got mixed up in the margarine battle. One alderman suggested that the voters be given an opportunity of expressing their views as to whether or not margarine should be colored.

Another alderman countered: "It is none of our business, and beyond our power to change."

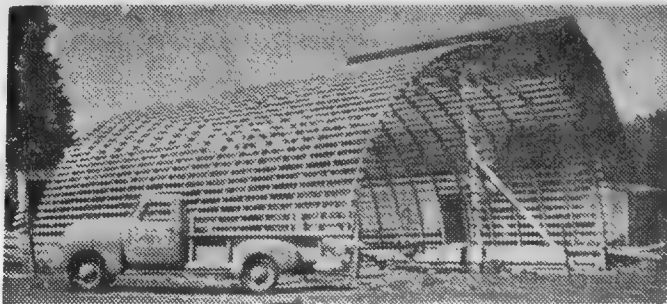
Council turned down the suggestion of a plebiscite.

Then comes John Desmond, Kamloops, president, Interior Vegetable Growers' Association, in an interview with Country Life.

He says: "While speaking of the law of supply and demand, the present anomalous position of the fluid milk market is worthy of note."

"Here we find a very important article in short supply, and yet producers of that article, by the dozen, are going out of business because they cannot get cost of production plus nominal return for their labor."

There are a lot more angles, but you get the general idea of the milk mess at the coast.



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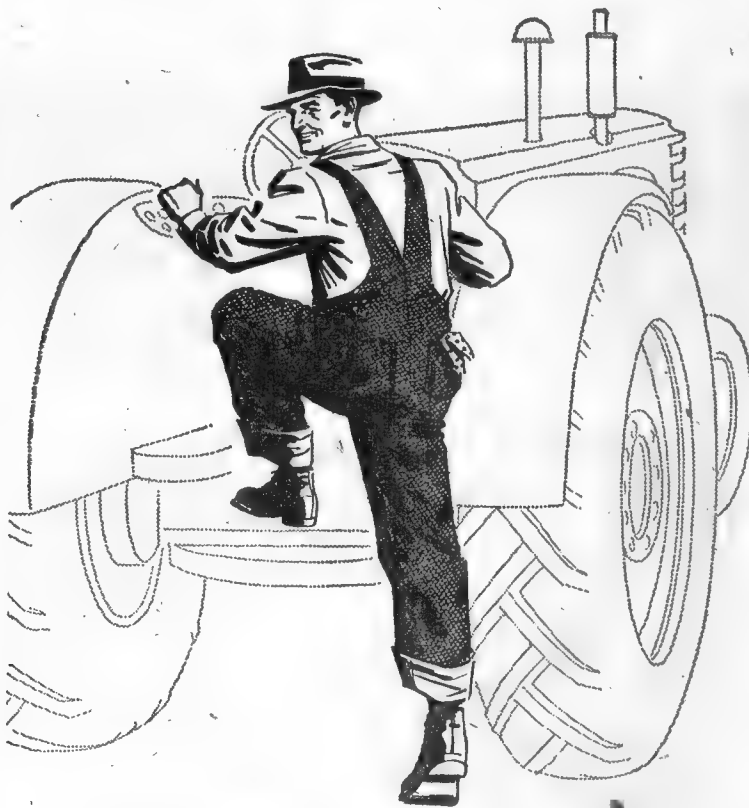
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Christmas tells us that God is near

By FRANK S. MORLEY, Ph.D. (Edin.), B.D.

WHAT are the greatest words you know outside the sayings of Jesus? I would choose without hesitation the concluding verses of the eighth chapter of Romans, especially, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress . . . ? I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come . . . nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

I have whispered these words to dying men and have seen their faces relax in peace. I have told them to people harassed with worry and quoted them to bereaved and desperate souls. And as they have heard the blessed assurance of the nearness of God their hearts have grown brave and strong again.

How many of you have read the book of Romans? How many of you have understood it? I would not believe you if you told me you understood all of it. No one has done that. The essential theme, however, all of you can understand. The theme is the nearness of God.

The Church Fathers found in it inspiration for their greatest teachings. Whenever there is a revival of religion men go back to it. Augustine, Luther, and Calvin found their theological roots in it. Today our greatest theologians like Barth and Brunner are steeped in it. They find in this book an exposition of those great doctrines of justification, sanctification, and election. To me all these doctrines are a statement of God's nearness to us. For what is justification but God's Son dying for us, and sanctification but God's work in us, and election but God's purpose for us? It is the story of our hymn, "Love Divine, all loves excelling."

Think of the setting of this hymn. This summer I stood in the ruins of the Colosseum at Rome. The people to whom these words were addressed stood as martyrs in that building. They were thrown to wild beasts and suffered every hideous torment and indignity. They knew well what Paul meant by "tribulation" and "persecution". And they died as kings, triumphantly as Jesus on the cross was triumphant, because they believed Paul's words. Nothing could separate them from God.

The Book of Romans is the story of how Paul discovered the nearness of God in sin. He tells us about the Jekyll and Hyde in his character: "The good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not that

I do." There is no man who has not discovered the division in his personality which Paul discusses in the seventh chapter of Romans. Something in us wants to do good; something else draws us to the evil. Soon you will be making your New Year's resolutions. Good. But how many of them will you keep? Why? Because there is a power of evil in you that draws you to wickedness. As Tennyson puts it in *Lucretius*,

"Now it seems some unseen monster lays—

His vast and filthy hands upon my will,

Wrenching it backward into his And spoils my bliss in being."

Any man of insight knows about that "unseen monster" who compels and distorts our will.

So Paul says that the only way to defeat evil, the only way to achieve a united personality, is to get close to God.

So Paul passes on to the problem of achieving a good character. He implores us "by the mercies of God" to "present our bodies a living sacrifice". Note the phrase "by the mercies of God". He tells us that only as we "are led by the spirit of God" can we become Sons of God. There is a Power in this world that can take your life and transform it into the very image of very God. Keep your character close to that Power. We are helpless alone.

Paul then deals with the importance of the nearness of God in our dealings with others. It is only as we see them as the children of God that we can love men. "Having then gifts differing according to the grace given unto us" he bids us serve one another. He urges us to be "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love"; to "bless them which persecute you", to be "not slothful in business"; "if thine enemy hunger, feed him". Now all this and much more is a description of Christian discipleship. How can we do these impossible things? By "the Spirit of Jesus Christ"; by "putting on Christ". By getting near to God.

Paul is writing to people for whom life is a constant tragedy. "For Thy sake we are killed all the day long". So Paul deals with suffering. He makes the incredible statement, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God". If you keep close to God even in the tragedy of life you are "more than conqueror". Moffatt has a wonderful translation of this verse: "We know that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of His purpose, have His aid and interest in everything". So

every mile of the drear and dusty road glows with romance, every common task becomes divine, every dark valley is transfigured with heavenly radiance, and every sorrow and suffering are sanctified as fellowship with our Lord on His Cross, as we take God into our experience, as we keep close to Him.

William Cowper once tried to commit suicide. One of the greatest writers in the English language, he went out to drown himself, but people were watching. So he went to an attic to hang himself, but the rope broke. Then he tried to kill himself with a knife. He lived, however, to write that wonderful hymn, "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform... Ye fearful saints fresh courage take."

But God's interest is not confined to individuals. All this has a social significance. So Paul tells the Romans that "I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ". This is a message that our modern world needs to hear, for many of our people think God irrelevant in human affairs. Christianity is something on a side street, good enough for a few peculiar people with a taste for it, but out of touch with the main stream of events. This is not true.

Paul is writing to people who believe that life is dreary fatalism. They believed existence to be a wheel that went round and round without our being able to

influence it and without intelligence or purpose. They were cynics.

The good news that Paul brings is that God takes an interest in the world. He made it. He loves it. He is not far from it. And this is the story of Christmas: that God is close to men, so close that He enters into human flesh and lives our life. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him need not perish".

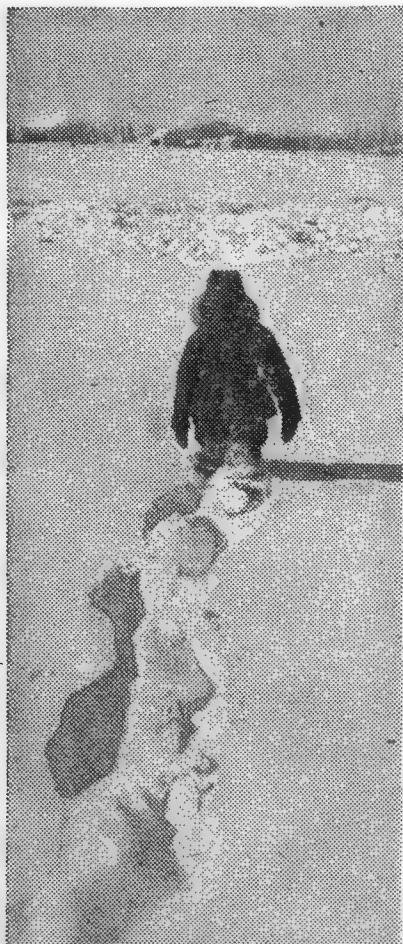
Something our people do not understand: the basic weakness of our society is its secularism and materialism. That is the basic evil of Communism. All your living flows from your philosophy. If you believe God loves the world and has a purpose of good for the world, your whole attitude to human affairs will be radically different, vitally different.

Now it has always been easy for me to believe that God loves the world. That seems to me obvious. Nature proves it. The law of the planets proves it. What has been hard for me to believe is that *God takes an interest in me*. An African chief said, "All I know of God makes me afraid of Him." A French scientist said, "All I can say about God is that He is the First Cause". Yes, one must believe that some Great Intelligence made this universe and set these planets spinning in grey space. But to believe that God loves each one of us as though He had none other to love, to believe that the hairs of our heads are all numbered, to believe that He takes a personal interest in each one of us, that is not easy. Yet what a glory it puts into life when that realization comes to one's heart! And this is what Paul is writing about: the nearness of God to him. It is life that is possible for everyone — the business man, the factory laborer, the doctor, and the housewife. It is a life that is possible everywhere.

I read of a man who said that for him life meant just three things, "Victory, victory, victory". For most of us life means, "Defeat, defeat, defeat". It need not. We too can be more than conquerors.

So when life gets difficult and all we love goes out into the night and we see only the bottomless pit of tragedy, when the beauty and goodness of life seem gone and all we have left are some cold, grey ashes, read these words of Paul again. They are a personal letter to you. Meditate upon the meaning of the Christmas story of an Incarnate God. And repeat the assurance, given by a man who knew the depths of human suffering, "I am persuaded that neither death nor life... nor any other creature shall be able to separate me from the love of God".

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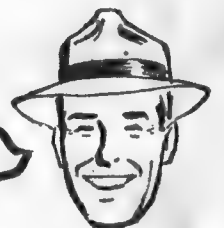
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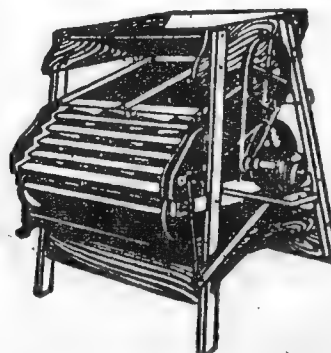
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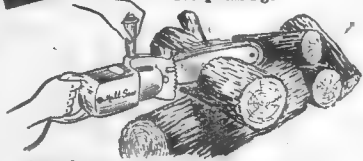
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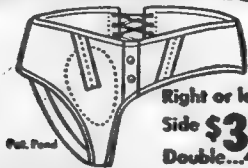
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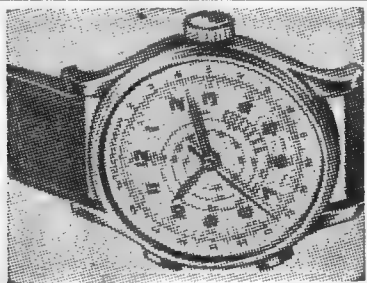
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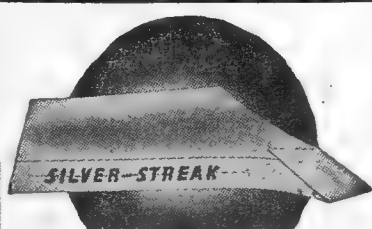
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The Camels of the plant kingdom

By H. F. HARP

CACTUS and succulent plants might well be called the 'Camels' of the Plant Kingdom. They are tolerant of extreme heat and dry weather. Their natural home is the desert and semi-desert areas of our continent — many are grown in prairie homes, some with a good deal of success. The cactus family includes many species that are interesting in shape and strikingly beautiful in flower. All true cactus have no leaves and most have spines, these may range from hair-like bristles to formidable hooked spines. The species most frequently seen include *Opuntia* (Prickly Pear). This is the one that has a flat slab-like form. *Mammillaria* (Barrel Cactus) and *Phyllocactus*. There are many others less frequently met with. The Christmas Cactus falls into a slightly different class and will be treated separately.

The succulent plants differ from the true Cactus in having leaves. These are always thick and fleshy and used for storage of moisture. In long periods of drought the plant draws on this water supply and as a last resort will drop most of its leaves. Aloes, Agaves, Sedums, Sem-pervivums, or House Leeks as they are commonly called are the most popular of the succulent plants.

With the many new designs in dishes and bowls an interesting arrangement of these plants can be had. Even an old baking tin may be disguised and used to good effect. A whole sunny window is sometimes devoted to cactus and succulent plants depicting a miniature desert scene.

In planning a 'dish' garden or window garden of these plants the first consideration should be to have all the plants proportionate to the container. Small plants are best — large specimens are not easily arranged in dishes.

Soil for Cactus

The soil for Cactus must be very porous and should not be rich in plant food. Cactus have been brought up on a lean diet. A satisfactory soil is made up by mixing one part loamy soil, one part sharp sand, and one part crushed mortar rubble or crushed brick. Broken flower pots may be used to replace the brick or mortar. The mixture should be sifted through a quarter-inch screen using the rougher portions in the bottom of the dish or bowl. The main thing is to have the mixture so porous that water will drain through it instantly. The soil mixture is filled to within half an inch of the rim of the container.

After the small plants have been arranged in the soil to the

best advantage they will require a good watering. A sprinkling of washed gravel, (pea-sized) or a layer of lime stone chips will lessen the danger of damping off!

Where a collection of Cactus and similar plants now exist and it is decided to start a dish garden, the young plants needed may be easily raised from cuttings or in some instances they may be found sprouting from the sides of old plants. A 'slab' of the Prickly Pear varieties, or a portion of stem may be used as a cutting.

Take off these cuttings with a sharp knife — having respect for the spines — and allow them to lie for a few days in a sunny window. Make no attempt to root them until the wounds are healed over. Use sharp sand as a rooting medium and place the pots in a sunny window. In a few weeks roots will have formed and the young plants are ready for potting. Use the smallest sized pots; cactus have a very small root system. Over potting makes for unthrifty plants. Use the same soil mixture as recommended for the 'dish' garden. After the little plants become established in the pots they may be transferred to the 'dish' garden.

Best results with Cactus plants are obtained when the



IN 1937, a Waukegan, Ill., minister and the residents of one city block decided to do something about the disposal of the family Christmas tree. Nothing is more forlorn than worn out Christmas trees. They deserve better fates than being dumped in alleys and vacant lots; and they constitute fire hazards on back porches and in basement areaways.

So, Waukegan held its first annual Twelfth Night observances committing the trees to a



community bonfire amid the chorusing of carols.

And the custom has waxed. Residents of several communities, choruses, soloists, etc., participating as the spirits of the Christmas trees are dispatched to some fir Valhalla to return to bless a future Yuletide.

plants receive a minimum of water during the period of short days.

Specimen Plants

Large plants of Cactus may be kept over winter in a well lighted basement. A temperature of 50° will suit most of them well. Regardless of how dry the plants appear to be no water must be applied until March when they are completely soaked by placing them in a washtub containing sufficient water to almost cover the pots. Another soaking a month later will carry them until they go outside.

An effective feature of the outdoor garden may be had by using these large cactus in a specially prepared bed. Select a sheltered, sunny position to establish a cactus garden. Not only will you provide a summer home for your plants but there are several hardy cacti and succulents that may be planted there to remain all winter. These hardy varieties include: *Opuntia fragilis*, *Opuntia polycantha*, *Mammillaria vivipara*, and all are native prairie plants. A few hardy 'House Leeks' and Sedums could be used effectively in making up a satisfactory collection of plants. All these are of easy culture and would stay out all winter. Among them the indoor varieties could be planted in June lifting them again in September.

In preparing the bed the soil should be removed to a depth of six to nine inches and replaced with a mixture of half sand and loamy soil. Good effects may be obtained by using a few pieces of flat limestone among the plants and a layer of coarse gravel spread over the whole bed.

The taller plants are best displayed on small mounds filling in between with the smaller plants and using the Sedums and House Leeks as edging plants.

Christmas Cactus

Epiphyllum truncatum — As this plant differs somewhat from the general run of cactus and is not suitable for 'dish' gardens or for setting out in the Cactus bed it will be dealt with separately. It is known as the Crab Cactus and is not a desert plant. It is found growing on tropical trees. The flat succulent stems serve the plant as leaves from which the flowers are borne. The most common colour is rosy-red. A white, pink edged form is rarely seen. The plant does best if kept outdoors during the summer months in a position shaded from the mid-day sun. The pot should be plunged into the soil and regular attention given to supply water as required. It is taken indoors in September and given a sunny window. Careful watering will be necessary through the short days. Soil for the Christmas Cactus should be richer than the mixture recommended for the other types. A suitable soil may be made up by mixing two

parts good turfy loam, one part leaf-soil or granulated peat and one part coarse sand. A little charcoal may be added if available.

Christmas Cactus plants may be allowed to remain in the same pots for several years as root-bound plants usually flower best. Re-potting, when necessary, is best done when plants have finished blooming. Extra care must be given these newly potted plants as they will be in active growth and require regular supplies of water.

A complaint is often heard of Christmas Cactus dropping their flower buds. This is mostly due to a lack of sunlight in winter or may be caused by over-watering.

The Poinsettia

This well known 'Christmasy' plant is included here because it is a near-succulent plant and prominent at this season of the year. Good specimens are seen from time to time in prairie homes.

Poinsettias will not tolerate cold and damp conditions. Draughts will cause wilting and loss of foliage.

If you have received a Poinsettia as a gift it should be kept in a position of warmth and light until the bracts or scarlet leaves have faded and most of the green leaves have fallen when it should be removed to a basement and kept quite dry.

In early summer the plant may be started into growth again and increased by means of cuttings if desired. Cut down the plant to about four inches high. Dip the cut portions immediately in powdered charcoal or talc. Shake out the old plant and repot in rich soil, one part loam, one part peat or leaf soil, one part rotted manure, and one part sharp sand.

Newly potted plants should be stood in a sunny window and will not require water for a few days. The first watering should completely soak the soil, subsequent waterings must be applied with care, keeping the plants on the dry side until growth commences.

If the stems are required for cuttings they should be made into six-inch lengths each cut at a node (leaf joint). Dip each piece into the powdered charcoal or talc immediately it is cut. Place five or six cuttings into a five-inch pot of sand. Keep moist but not soggy and in a position of diffused light. Rooting will take about three weeks when the young plants may be potted singly in three-inch pots using the same soil mixture as recommended for the old plants. Later the young plants are potted on into five-inch pots.

A half teaspoonful of commercial fertilizer may be applied when the first signs of scarlet appears in the bracts.

Avoid chilling draughts and over-watering if you would succeed with these plants.



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annual statement

CAPITAL

\$7,000,000

RESERVE

\$11,000,000

Year ending 31st October, 1951

ASSETS

Deposits with and Notes of Bank of Canada	\$ 45,552,916.78
Notes of and Cheques on Other Banks	30,759,078.03
Other Cash and Deposits	8,198,191.80
Government and Municipal Securities (not exceeding market value)	187,449,486.38
Other Bonds and Stocks (not exceeding market value)	9,318,815.23
Call Loans (secured)	5,967,142.76
TOTAL QUICK ASSETS	\$287,245,630.98
Commercial and Other Loans (after provision for bad and doubtful debts)	228,141,913.08
Liabilities of Customers under Acceptances and Letters of Credit (as per contra)	12,191,326.38
Bank Premises	7,960,594.22
Other Assets	66,577.16
	\$535,606,041.82

LIABILITIES

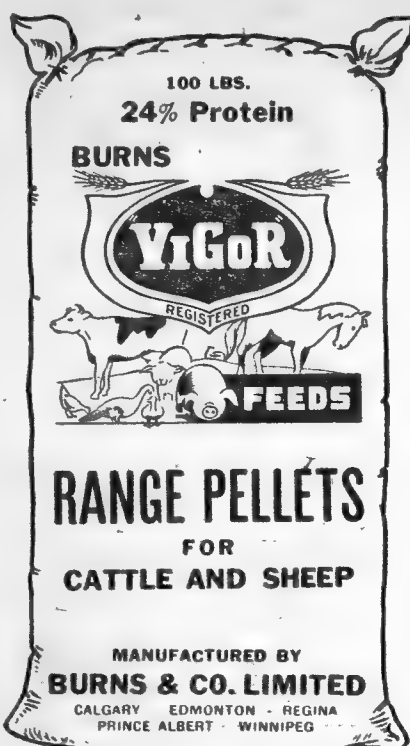
Deposits	\$503,780,084.40
Acceptances and Letters of Credit Outstanding	12,191,326.38
Other Liabilities	205,443.84
TOTAL LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC	\$516,176,854.62
Dividends due Shareholders	353,441.84
Capital, Reserve and Undivided Profits	19,075,745.36
	\$535,606,041.82

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1951, after contributions to Staff Pension Fund and after making appropriations to Contingency Reserves out of which full provision for bad and doubtful debts has been made	\$ 2,862,000.30
Provision for depreciation of Bank Premises, Furniture and Equipment	475,600.05
	\$ 2,386,400.25
Provision for Dominion and Provincial Taxes	1,150,000.00
	\$ 1,236,400.25
Dividends at the rate of \$1.20 per share	\$840,000.00
Provision for Bonus of 20c per share payable 1st December, 1951	140,000.00
	\$ 256,400.25
Special Provision to write down Bank Premises	150,000.00
Balance of Profits carried forward	106,400.25
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1950	1,969,345.11
	\$ 2,075,745.36
Transferred to Reserve Fund	1,000,000.00
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1951	\$ 1,075,745.36
RESERVE FUND	
Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1950	10,000,000.00
Transferred from Profit and Loss Account	1,000,000.00
Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1951	\$ 11,000,000.00

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Tenting alone

FORTY-SEVEN years is a long time to look back, but it is that long since our family of four, then, arrived from across the sea.

In 1904 Dad took up a homestead on which Mother, sister and myself lived in a tent for 6 months to hold it. Dad returned to Winnipeg to work. At nights the coyotes howled and the storms raged. In those days fog wasn't uncommon, and one night a strange man, who was lost, saw the light in the tent and came to it, of course he was a stranger to Mother, so having no accommodation and less desire to take in strangers, he was soon on his way. We, too returned to "Peg" in the fall.

In the spring of 1906, coming via Lumsden, we bought our first team of oxen and wagon, loaded ourselves and chattels and proceeded once more for the homestead and home where my parents still live after 45 years.

Mrs. Frank Armstrong.
Semans, Sask.

★ ★

Good neighbors

In 1906, I was a very young girl and our crop of wheat was ready to cut. My father had 2 quarters of land; most of it in crop. There was over 100 acres in wheat alone. We only had a small binder and 4 horses to do the cutting. Our hired man at this time had broken his foot, so we had to get along some how. My father drove the old binder and my mother stooked. To go around a hundred acres of wheat took quite a while.

The first day there was fun for us small fry, 8 of us, jumping in and out of make-believe houses of stooks. At night, mother was very tired. Dad was cross at us for undoing the stooking mother had done. Lots of stooks had to be re-done.

The second day, as my father went into the field, there was already 7 binders lined up and 4 more coming, together with some extra men and even women for stokers. Women on horseback or in buggies came to the house with extra provisions for a big day.

What excitement for us youngsters and other youngsters who came along. By night on the second day all our grain, wheat, oats and barley, was cut and stooked.

After eating, some fun and tales and laughter all went home and it hadn't cost father a cent. Those were the days!

Mrs. Andrew Anderson.
Falun, Alberta.

Newly-wed immigrants

I REMEMBER so very well the year 1913 when we emigrated from Manchester, New Hampshire to St. Paul, Alberta. My husband and I, 23 and 21 years old had no experience of farm life. We were newlyweds.

We came by train as far as Vegreville, 65 miles from St. Paul. We made the trip with horses, changing every 20 miles. The driver was a very rough man, whipping the poor horses and even swearing at them. We rode from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., reached St. Paul on an extremely hot day in June.

We rode in a very old light wagon, the wheels squeaked continuously from being overloaded with 8 passengers, 3 trunks and six suit cases. How frightened I was.

Arriving at St. Paul we hunted up a man and wife whose name we were given because they were of the same nationality as ourselves.

He was kind enough to take us to his shack 10 miles out of St. Paul, this time in a heavy wagon and two old horses. We reached his home at 1 p.m., exhausted.

His wife gave us a warm welcome. But how I did cry that night. But after having a good sleep I picked up courage again.

We filed on a homestead 9 miles south of St. Paul, our first neighbor being 4 miles away, and lived there 15 years.

Mrs. A. Lagace.

Guy, Alta.

★ ★

A real winter

I REMEMBER our first winter on the homestead in a new sod house. Roof sheeting had been spaced, to save lumber, and the shingles-nail points stuck thru' all over. Each one collected frost until it was a ball the size of a walnut. When spring finally came we had quite a shower indoors!

Our house was too spacious for the one kitchen range, which the dealer in U.S. had boasted was "asbestos lined, and built to throw heat only to the lids." It didn't seem to throw heat anywhere, with hardly any wood to perk up the low grade, snow-filled coal. The water pail became a solid block of ice every night, and we seldom felt really warm even when cuddling the stove. Even so... Our nearest bachelor neighbor, fresh out from England, was sitting well back from the stove one day and remarked: "I could stand it if only I could get nice

and warm like this in my shack!"

Uncle had found him one morning actually crying with the cold, and holding his hands down inside the fire-box over the reluctantly smouldering coals, in an effort to warm himself. The shack was hardly more weather-tight than a granary, and we had 70 days that winter that the temperature was 40 below or colder. Our thermometer, hung by the door on the south end of the house, dropped its mercury into the bulb for three whole days, and it was supposed to register fifty, minus.

(Mrs.) Leta R. Porter.

Czar, Alta.

★ ★

Early combine

In the mid-summer of 1909 as a young boy I remember dad went to the World's Fair or Exposition at Seattle in the state of Washington.

On his return, among the many things he told us about was how they harvested the grain crops there.

He described a big machine which took some thirty horses to pull and one man drove them.

The sacks of grain were dropped in the field as the machine moved along and there was little danger from rain as it was their dry season.

Not until years later did I realize that this machine was an early type of combine.

G. Hertlein,

Renwer, Man.

★ ★

Diamond Jubilee

I was very interested to read Mrs. Pichette's letter in your "I Remember" column in the October issue. I have also kept a little chocolate tin as a souvenir of King Edward VII coronation given to me by my grandfather at the time. This one is round, with the King's picture and "Woodford", 1902 on the lid, and on the bottom of the tin "Mazawalter" Chocolate. The tin is still a bright gold color.

I also remember Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee when all the community had a wonderful dinner, including "silver-

sides" cuts of salt beef and carrots and potatoes topped off with plum pudding. This was in a barn at the "Manor Farm" in our little village of Emmington in 1897. In the following November we all went to see the first "Cinematograph" to come to our town of Thame, Oxfordshire, nearby, being a movie of the Royal Procession of the Jubilee in London.

(Mrs.) John Duxbury.

Elkhorn, Man.

★ ★

Lonely grandpa

I REMEMBER quite well my Dad telling us of the early days when Grandpa came to this country first, when Brandon was the nearest town. Oxen was the only way to travel. They had only been in this country a year when Grandma died, leaving a new-born baby

and nine other small kiddies. In the evening, the poor kiddies would be crying, then the old dog would start up that mournful cry, and poor Grandpa would look around his small brood and wonder how he could carry on, and he'd have to give in and cry too. However, the years past and they grew up and Grandpa and Dad have passed on too.

Mrs. W. B. Rogers.

Box 271, Morden, Man.

Eye -- Opener



When the clock strikes midnight on December 31, it's time to unmask and greet the New Year with eyes wide open, advises actress Jean Gillespie, suiting her actions to the words. In a few days millions of persons will be pointing to 12 o'clock.

CANADIAN QUIZ

By GEOFFREY SHAWCROSS

1. Which noted Canadian sailor began a voyage round the world alone in 1895?
2. What happened on his last voyage?
3. Which Canadian Premier became a noble?
4. Over which important conference did he preside?
5. Who is our permanent delegate to the United Nations Organization?

6. Of what was he the joint inventor?

7. Who was Dominion Premier for a few weeks in 1926?

8. Which province is named after a former Royal House?

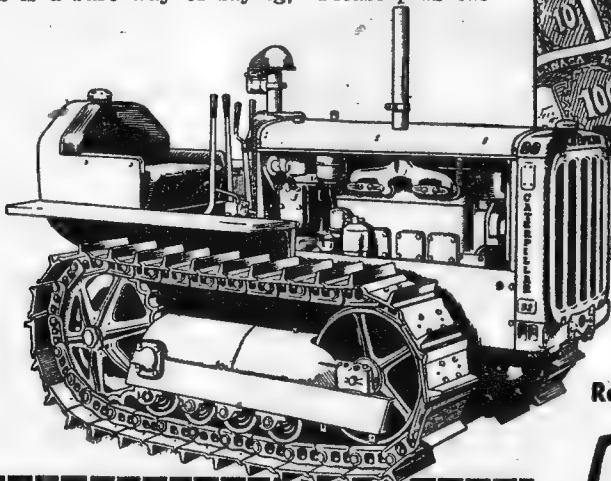
9. Which city was presented with a valuable portrait painting by King George III?

10. Why is Belle Isle of canine interest?

(Answers on page 31)

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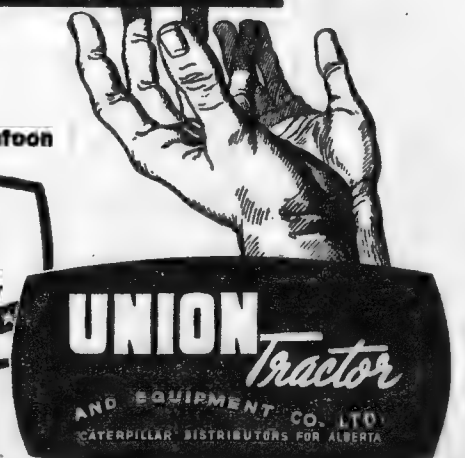


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Saskatoon



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- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie



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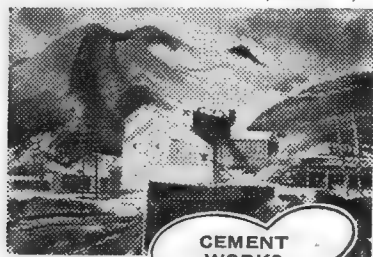
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WORKS

by Frank Palmer

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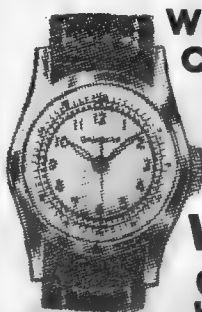
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Here are Alberta's master farmers for 1951

THE third group of Master Farm Family Award winners as announced by Hon. D. A. Ure, minister of Agriculture, are:

John G. Porozni Family,
Willingdon,
J. W. Hosford Family,
South Edmonton,
Floyd Gillyson Family,
La Glace,
Victor Watson Family,
Airdrie.

Each master farm family receives an award of \$1,000, an engraved plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance.

The John G. Porozni Family

When John G. Porozni of Willingdon took over his father's farm in 1928 he inherited three things — a quarter section of land, a 14 by 18-foot log cabin, and a \$2,000 mortgage.

Today the quarter section has grown to one and a half sections of farmland, the log cabin has been replaced by a modern seven-room home, and the mortgage is just a memory.

The qualities of a progressive pioneer were needed to make such a development during the lean years of the 30's and the Porozni family had those qualities. Modern farming methods, a close study of market conditions, and a genuine love for the land combined to raise the family to the enviable position of Master Farm Family for 1951.

Throughout his years of farming, Mr. Porozni has served as an inspiration to his community. The district around Willingdon and Hairy Hill contains the largest Roumanian settlement in Canada, and outstanding success by one of their own people, likely has done more to promote modern farming methods than any other single factor.

The Poroznis are mixed farmers. Use of weed sprays, fertilizers and modern machinery have enabled them to produce top yields of wheat, oats and barley, while scientific breeding has produced good herds of Hereford cattle and Yorkshire hogs.

There are seven members in the Porozni family — Mr. and Mrs. Porozni and five children. The eldest is Nicholas who is 23, while Willis is 22, George 20, Robert 11 and Betty is five years old.

The J. W. Hosford Family

An Irish farmer who started out at South Edmonton 32 years ago with four scrub cattle and a quarter section of land is today one of Alberta's finest dairymen. He is John Wesley Hosford, head of the 1951 Master Farm Family for East Central Alberta.

From a modest beginning in 1919, Mr. Hosford has built up a herd of 100 registered Holstein cattle and his 800-acre farm is one of the most modern in the area. Members of the Hosford family are leaders in the district, and excellent methods of farm management, both in home and field, provide inspiration for any rural family.

Mr. Hosford was born on a farm in Cork County, Ireland, in 1888 and came to Alberta in the spring of 1908. The following year his mother, father, five brothers and three sisters also emigrated to Canada. Of the family group only John Hosford and one brother followed agricultural pursuits.

In 1916 Mr. Hosford was married. His wife was born in Clover Bar in 1895 and, except for nine years as stenographer, she has lived on the farm of her father or her husband all of her life. Mr. Hosford joined the army at the outbreak of World

War One and served two years and three months overseas.

Upon his return in 1919 he applied for land under the Soldiers' Settlement Board and obtained a quarter section on his present farm. Even then Mr. Hosford wanted to be in the dairying business, and chose the quarter section because it was near Edmonton a steady market for milk.

The Victor Watson Family

A man who has farmed the land where he was born for a quarter century, Victor Watson of Airdrie, and his family today were named one of Alberta's Master Farm Families for 1951.

This progressive farmer and rancher now operates his thriving business on a 5,300-acre farm and ranch layout about five miles west of Airdrie.

Mr. Watson is one of the Province's leading registered seed growers specializing in Thatcher wheat, Victory and Lorain Oats, Ollie Barley and forages. He entered the registered seed business in 1935 and just three years later captured the championship for Victory Oats at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. His seed has won several awards at fairs in Alberta and throughout Western Canada.

Seed grown by Watson is sold throughout Alberta. When asked what induced him to enter the seed growing business, Mr. Watson replied, "A neighbor of mine, Howard Wright, was growing and sacking wheat for 60 cents in 1935 and in those days that looked like a good business deal to me." He operates a large seed cleaning plant at the farm site.

An important experiment, that of feeding livestock from refuge screenings, is being conducted by Victor Watson and his 18-year-old son Allan. During the past year Allan has been feeding a few grade cattle. It is estimated that when the cattle are marketed this fall they will have doubled their weight.

The Floyd Gillyson Family

Farming to the Gillyson Family of La Glace is a way of life which, when lived to the fullest, brings the maximum of satisfaction and contentment.

Building a farm in 20 years with little more capital than a good supply of ambition and energy is a creditable achievement; to create such a fine farm as the Gillyson's Odin Stock Farm in such a short period is a magnificent conquest.

The Gillysons, the Peace River district's Master Farm Family for 1951, are modest about their triumph over the adversities of nature and economics. Working together is their simple credo for success. Floyd Gillyson, his wife Stella, and their three sons practice co-operation at home, in the fields and in the community.

Working together comes easily to Mr. and Mrs. Gillyson because theirs is a romance which has continued since school days at Meeting Creek,

Santa Claus Makes a Stop Out West



30 miles south of Camrose. Both their parents were early settlers in the Camrose district and both came from the United States. Floyd Gilkyson was born at Sioux City, Iowa, and came to Canada with his parents in 1901, when he was only a year old. His wife was born at Shelley, Minnesota, in 1904, the same year her parents moved to Canada. Mrs. Gilkyson's father, Joe Hunter, is 82 years old and remains active on his farm at Meeting Creek.

Mr. Gilkyson saw the Peace River district first as a well driller. Drilling for water in the 1920's was a specialized science conducted with considerable risk. There was a certain glamor about the men who dug wells in those days. To descend 100 or 200 feet into the earth down a narrow circular hole and work in the inky darkness with rock drill and blasting powder was a job for a man. Modern drilling rigs have taken the romance and much of the danger out of well drilling nowadays but when Floyd Gilkyson worked in the dark of a deep well shaft even the reassuring tightness of the safety line around his chest couldn't make him forget that he was earning his money the hard way.

'Grandpa Frost' Helps Russians Celebrate

ALTHOUGH Christmas is no longer a holiday in Soviet Russia, a non-religious midwinter festival is celebrated and children receive gifts from "Grandpa Frost."

In Czarist Russia, it was customary to well-to-do families with large homes to entertain lavishly on Christmas day. The invitations were extremely formal and begged the invited to consider that.

"...for thousands of years it has been so; with us it has not commenced, with us it will not cease. Do not, therefore, disturb the festival; do not bring the good people to despair. Without you there will be no maiden festival at Anna Karpowna's."

In planning these house parties, hostesses gave particular attention to the selection of partners for the young ladies. The selection was sometimes very satisfactory and sometimes left something to be desired.

Arrival of the "fair maidens," each with her mother and retinue, bringing cake and sweetmeats and gifts for everyone, proceeded according to prescribed ritual: the guests sooner freezing in their sleds before the gate than to alight before receiving the greeting of the host and hostess.

Having been ceremoniously welcomed, the guests offered prayers before the icon (sacred picture) and then proceeded to the feasting and festivities arranged for them.



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Until I discovered Dr. D. D. Dennis' amazingly fast relief—D. D. D. Prescription. World popular, this pure, cooling, liquid medication speeds peace and comfort from cruel itching caused by eczema, pimples, rashes, athlete's foot and other itch troubles. Trial bottle, 35¢. First application checks even the most intense itch or money back. Ask druggist for D. D. D. Prescription (ordinary or extra strength).

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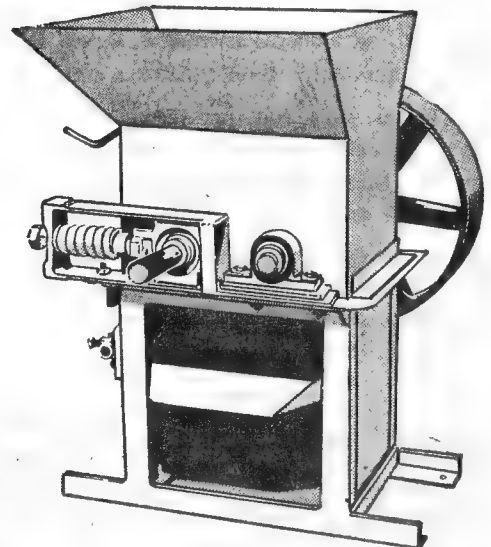
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A Pioneer Story For Christmastime

By KERRY WOOD

DURING the Christmas season, that happy time of goodwill toward all, I love to read again one of the finest stories ever written by a Canadian author. The late Peter McArthur gave up a successful writing career in New York City to return to the Ontario countryside, where he farmed and wrote enchantingly about his rural life. Many of his books are now out-of-print, hence it may be permissible to reproduce in short form an article from his volume: "Familiar Fields".

The article was titled "Bushel for Bushel", and is a true account of a kindly Scottish farmer, by name Neil McAlpine. The story was related to Peter McArthur by McAlpine's grandson, and the incident took place during early settlement times in

the Fingal district of Ontario. Western readers may not know this story, which has become something of a legend of rural Ontario.

Neil McAlpine was a wealthy man and a large scale farmer by early standards. It was his habit to store grain and hold it for some time, until marketing conditions were favorable. One year a severe frost killed all the wheat in the Fingal settlement, at a time when McAlpine had over 3,000 bushels stored in his granaries. At first he rejoiced that wheat prices would be high and he'd make a good profit, but when a miller in the nearby town of St. Thomas offered him a fabulous sum for his total grain in storage, McAlpine asked the miller how he could afford to pay such a price.

"Why, I intend to hold it until

spring, then I'll sell it for seed-grain to the settlers and make a fortune."

Blood Money

Neil McAlpine realized the desperate plight of his neighbors and understood how he could extort "blood money" from them because of his wheat monopoly. But he wanted no part of the scheme. He returned home, and next day being Sunday, he went early to the Presbyterian Church to put a plan into operation. He stood outside the church gate, and told every farmer who came to worship to visit the McAlpine farm on Monday to get whatever seed-grain he needed — "bushel for bushel. For every bushel you take at seed-time, you can pay me back a bushel after harvest."

When he returned home after morning services, it suddenly occurred to him the offer had been made only to Presbyterians. So he quickly dispatched his sons to the other churches in the district—to the Baptists, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Methodists. The young men

made the bushel-for-bushel offer to every farmer they met on their tour.

On Monday, the settlers thronged to Neil McAlpine's farm. His sons measured out the wheat, while the father sat outside the granaries and chatted with the excited men-folk. As they were leaving, he cheerily called: "Remember, now, bushel for bushel — after harvest!"

It was a great-hearted thing to do and meant a great deal to the struggling homesteaders of that region. From then on, the people of Fingal dated events "from the year Neil McAlpine saved the settlement from starvation..."

But the aftermath of the story is equally fine. The grandson who told the tale to Peter McArthur related that he'd returned to the Fingal settlement for a visit long after the death of Neil McAlpine, whom he greatly resembled in appearance. While the grandson was standing on the station platform, he was accosted by an ancient Irishman who said:

"Sor, ye're the spittin' image o' Neil McAlpine, God rest his soul."

Whereupon the grandson got the Irish pioneer to repeat the glowing tale of saving the settlement, which happened when the Irishman had been a mere lad. He'd belonged to a poverty-stricken family of new-comers, and they had nothing but turnips to eat until the glorious day of the "bushel-for-bushel" offer. In addition to the wheat, Neil McAlpine insisted on giving the Irishman's father some flour, while Mrs. McAlpine added a huge pitcher of butter-milk and a jug of molasses as a treat for the Irish children. It just so happened that the parish priest called on the Irish folk that day, and, knowing their dire poverty, was amazed when the mother proudly set a fresh-baked loaf of white bread and treacle to spread on it in front of him.

"Woman, where did you get such things?"

The mother told him about the great kindness of the McAlpines, whereupon the old priest crossed himself reverently and said:

"God bless that old heretic, Neil McAlpine!"

McAlpine's grandson was delighted with the Irishman's version, but decided to enquire into the differences of the pioneer's religions.

"You were Catholics, eh?"

"Aye, we were."

"And how did you feel about Neil McAlpine being a Presbyterian?"

Drawing himself up to his full height, the old Irishman proudly said:

"On Sundays McAlpine was a Presbyterian — but on week days he was our neighbor!"

The tolerant spirit of Christmas goodwill is in this grand old true story of Canadian Pioneering.



In The Dawn Forever

"Man lives in the dawn forever. Our past has no other mission than to equip us for the present and the future. Its precedents should not be allowed to divert at this moment one particle of our energy that could be devoted to constructive advance."

OVER the generations and centuries mankind has achieved steady progress. This has been done mainly through united action against economic and political tyranny.

While wars and depressions may temporarily stay or slow down the progress of mankind in the march towards freedom and better living for all, the movement is never completely halted. Somewhere or other new recruits are being enlisted and new forces developed. The march is forever forward.

The Wheat Pool movement in Western Canada is one phase of mankind's march towards economic emancipation. It has laid the foundation for the establishment, for all time to come, of a physical system of handling grain the ownership of which rests with the grain producers. This is one of the most important steps ever taken by a group of farmers anywhere in the world.

The responsibility for carrying on the Wheat Pool movement, and for making Pool elevator organizations in every province growing concerns, rests now with younger generations of farmers. It is the responsibility of such generations to build great superstructures on the foundations so well and truly laid.



"It's ALBERTA POOL ELEVATORS FOR ALBERTA FARMERS"

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Everyone

Talk and plans but no disarmament

By BEN MALKIN

TWO proposals for disarmament were made in the first week or so of the United Nations General Assembly meeting that opened in Paris in November. The first, by the West, called for a very broad disarmament program by all countries, and this would include atomic disarmament. As a condition, there would first be a count of weapons made, and after disarmament, regular inspection by international inspection teams. Concurrent with disarmament would be a settlement of major disputes between East and West. The Russian counter-proposal was for a disarmament conference before next June 1, at which atomic weapons would be banned. The Russians proposed, too, that other weapons be reduced by one-third.

There is little doubt but that behind the proposals are two main factors. First, rearmament is proving a very heavy burden to both sides, and both must convince their own publics that it is not they who want rearmament, but the other fellow. Second, the United States has to do more than it has to counteract the propaganda that its rearmament program is not aimed at enforcing peace, but at making war. The disarmament proposal of Dean Acheson, the United States Secretary of State, seems to have been an attempt to counter this propaganda.

This does not mean the West isn't prepared to start disarming, and that the disarmament proposal was merely propaganda. The West is ready to disarm, provided Russia is also, on terms acceptable to the West. Without such terms, it isn't ready to disarm.

That's why, from the viewpoint of practical politics, the Western disarmament offer wasn't realistic at this time. Rearmament is only partly a cause of tension in the world, and not the main cause. Chiefly,

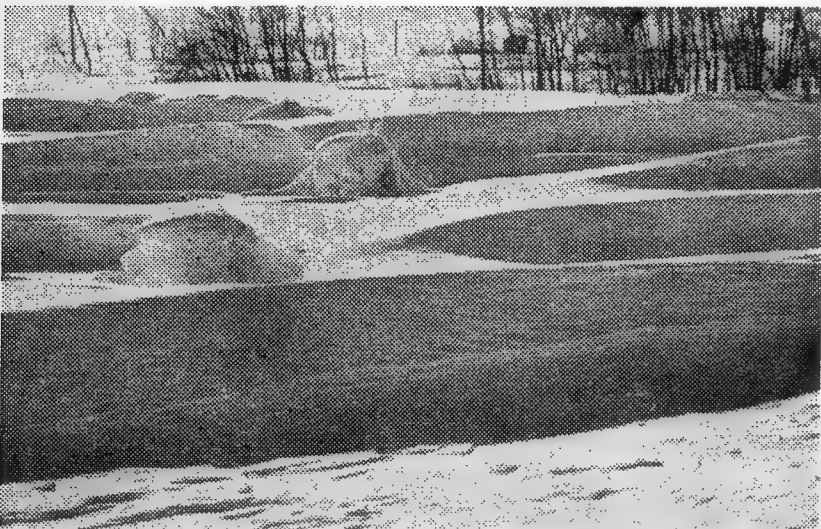
rearmament is a result of tensions that already exist. The 1948, for example, seizure of power in Czechoslovakia by the Communists, led to the Brussels Pact, at which Britain, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and The Netherlands started to agree on defence measures. The Korean war led directly to today's vast rearmament program in the West.

Another reason why the disarmament suggestion made by Mr. Acheson wasn't realistic was that it virtually asked the Russians to change their system of government. The Russian government operates on a basis of secrecy, not publicity. Inspection of Russian installations would destroy this secrecy, and with it the iron curtain. At the present stage, such contact between East and West would not be tolerated by Russia.

Nevertheless, the West's disarmament proposals are to be taken very seriously. They are at least an ideal toward which to work, and at best are something that may be achieved once the Russians are convinced that they can no longer expand their power except by going to war—a step which, according to all the reports available, the latest being those compiled by British Military Intelligence, the Russians are unwilling to take.

Moreover, they indicate the economic difficulties and strains that are attending rearmament. Britain's 15 billion dollar program is proving about as much as she can handle. It will involve a serious cut in the United Kingdom's standard of living, and must mean getting more help from the United States. France has decided to reduce imports such as tobacco and newsprint very drastically, to help pay for rearmament. In Canada, credit restrictions are forcing a lot of people out of the market for cars, refrigerators, and other goods, while rising costs have been forcing lower living standards on a lot of other people.

Oat Stooks in Winter



The wind, snow and sun combined to etch this scene which Ben Weber of Sedgewick, Alta., caught with his camera and won \$5.



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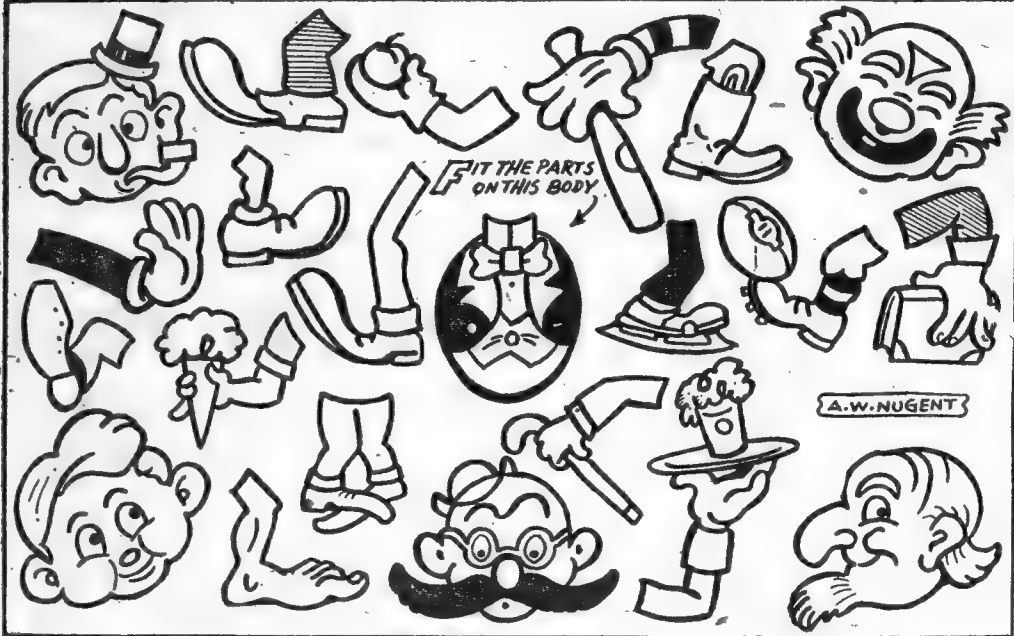
FUNLAND

THE WORLD'S LEADING PUZZLEMAKER

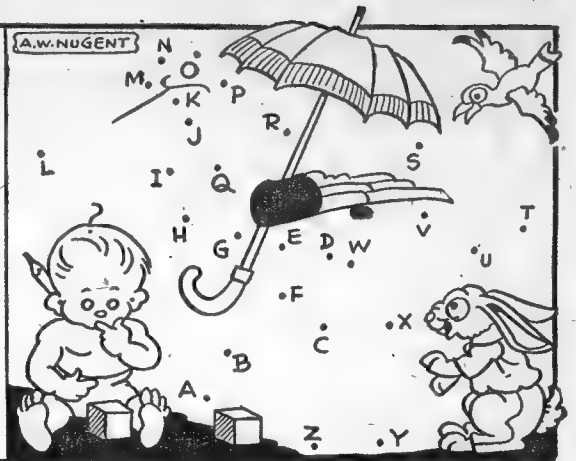
THE FAMILY ENTERTAINER

MR. PRESTO CHANGE-O

CUT OUT ALL THE HEADS, ARMS, LEGS AND ALSO THE BODY... THEN YOU WILL BE READY TO BUILD UP MR. PRESTO CHANGE-O. LAY THE BODY ON A FLAT SURFACE AND PLACE A HEAD, A PAIR OF ARMS AND TWO LEGS IN CERTAIN POSITIONS TO MAKE YOUR OWN COMIC CHARACTER. YOU CAN PRODUCE MANY DIFFERENT FUNNY FIGURES, IN ACTION, BY SWITCHING THE VARIOUS HEADS AND LIMBS USING THE SAME BODY.

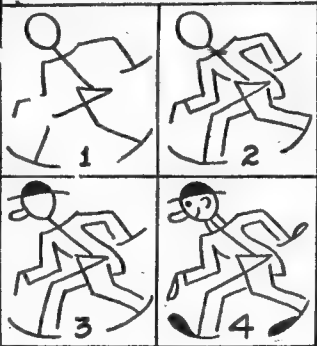


DO YOU KNOW YOUR P'S AND Q'S? IF SO, JOIN THE DOTS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER TO SEE ME.

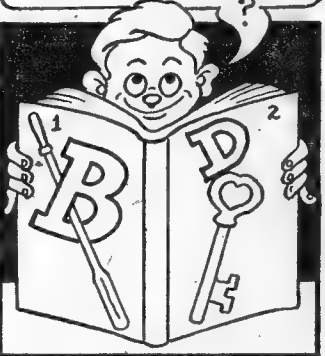


HERE IS A **POSER**. SPELL FOUR OTHER FIVE-LETTER WORDS BY USING ALL THE LETTERS IN "POSER" TO SPELL EACH WORD.

LITTLE CARTOONISTS: DRAW ME STEP BY STEP.



WHAT TWO ANIMALS ARE SUGGESTED BY THE PICTURES ON THE BOOK?



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
R	G	N	H	D	E	O	U	Y

COMPLETE THE EXAMPLE. THE ADDITION EXAMPLE, THEN SUBSTITUTE THE NUMBERS IN THE ANSWERING NUMBERS IN THE CORRESPONDING TO THE CORRESPONDING NUMBERED LETTERS, AS IN THE ABOVE CODE. IF YOUR ANSWER IS CORRECT THE RESULT WILL SPELL A DOG.

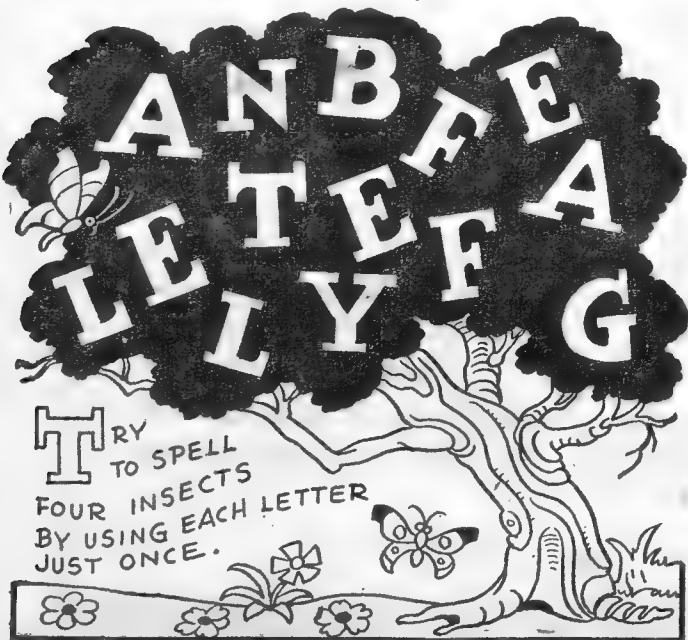
3	5	4	7	8	1	2	6
6	2	8	9	7	6	9	7
7	1	3	2	5	4	6	9
4	7	2	4	6	5	4	3

ANSWER: _____
A DOG: DOG → _____



SOLUTION: 1. FOX; 2. BASS; 3. BOAR; 4. WASP.

THE CORRECT ANSWER 216947835 TRANS-LATED, WILL SPELL GREYHOUND.



RIDDLES



SOLUTIONS

POSER "WORD PROBLEM: PORES, SPORE, PROSE AND ROPES.

THE REBUS PICTURES ON THE BOOK SUGGEST THESE TWO ANIMALS - 1. BOAR (B OAR); 2. DONKEY (D ON KEY).

USE EACH GIVEN LETTER, JUST ONCE, TO SPELL THE FOLLOWING INSECTS: BEE, FLEA, FLY AND GNAT.

HI BUD! FIRST DRAW A PANSY. THEN MAKE IT GROW TO PRODUCE JIM PANSY.



King Richard's Christmas Feasts

ONCE upon a medieval Yuletide, King Richard III of England celebrated at Litchfield—and during the festivities 2,000 oxen and 200 tons of wine were consumed.

Of course, the feudal set-up provided the great lords with the wherewithal for magnificence—the lords received gifts from their tenants and kings received gifts from their nobles; and the graduated scale for giving and receiving was as well ascertained as the quiddam honorarium of any barrister or physician.

Queen Elizabeth received a large part of her wardrobe as gifts from her courtiers, and if the quality or quantity was not satisfactory, the donors were unceremoniously informed of the situation.

When Henry III entertained a thousand knights, peers, and assorted nobles who came to attend the Yuletide marriage of the Princess Margaret, his majesty received a royal Christmas gift of 2,700 pounds, plus 600 fat oxen from the Archbishop of York.

With similar assistance, whether exhorted or given in the spirit of generosity appropriate to the season, his majesty could well afford to give Christmas feasts for the poor like the one given in Westminster Hall in 1248, which lasted a week.

Striving to outdo his predecessors and give his successors something to shoot at, Henry VIII kept one Yuletide at which the cost of gold cloth that was used amounted to 600 pounds alone. He had tents erected and artificial gardens plotted within the spacious hall of his palace. Knights came out of the tents to joust in tournaments and fantastically dressed

dancers, covered from head to foot with gay ribbon streamers, emerged from the gardens to entertain the guests.

Preparation for the feasting on such occasions is perfectly appealing to epicures of the 20th century—and can only be vaguely comprehended by considering that Richard II normally employed 2,000 cooks to prepare food for the 10,000 persons who dined—irrespective of special feasting—at his expense every day.

England's Puritans Banned Christmas

CHRISTMAS was outlawed in England by the Puritan government of England in 1643 and, although the restoration of the Stuarts brought a revival of Christmas customs and traditions, Christmas never regained its former prestige in England.

It is observed religiously in the churches and as a day for family reunions and social gatherings, in contrast to the

lavish feasting and boisterous merry-making of olden times.

Merry-making and gift-giving come in for their share however on December 26 which is



Boxing Day. The origin of Boxing Day antedates Christmas and can be traced to the custom of gift-giving during the Roman festival of Saturnalia.

In Christian liturgy December 26 is observed as the feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and during the centuries when journeymen and apprentices were in the habit of levying upon their masters' customers, 'Christmas Boxes' were collected on St. Stephen's day.

Thus, the children receive their presents, in boxes, as do old servants, the postman, and everyone else. And reminiscent of the Roman Saturnalia, householders dance with the servants and, toward evening, there is revelling in the streets as groups of merry-makers gather on street corners or ride about London-town dancing on the 'flats' of trucks.

Clean up
with
SNAP
HAND CLEANER

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Breakfast's Ready



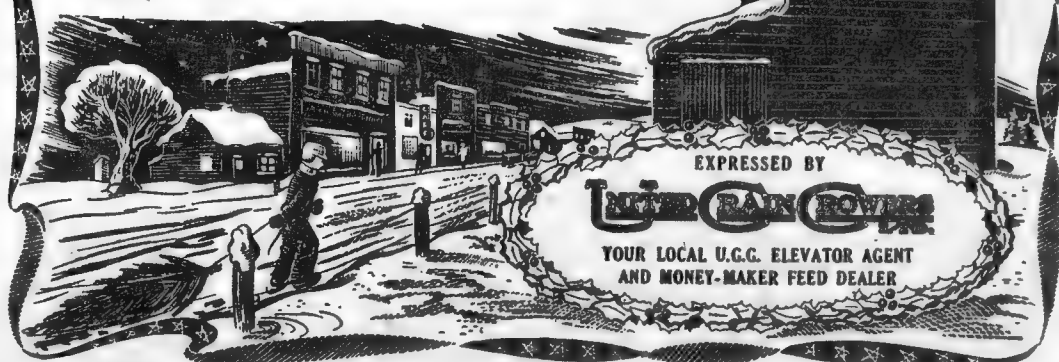
Marilyn Chant, 2342 Rose St., Regina, caught the family cat moving in on the milk and won \$3 for the picture.

On Christmas Eve . . .

in the farms and homes of Western Canada, neighbors and friends for miles around gather to exchange greetings and celebrate the observance of the joyous festival of Christmastide . . .

In that true spirit of neighborliness, which is such a marked and happy feature of our prairie life, we of United Grain Growers Ltd. join in voicing to our many friends—in rural communities and elsewhere—that traditional seasonal greeting . . .

A Merry Christmas to All



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THE GLADES

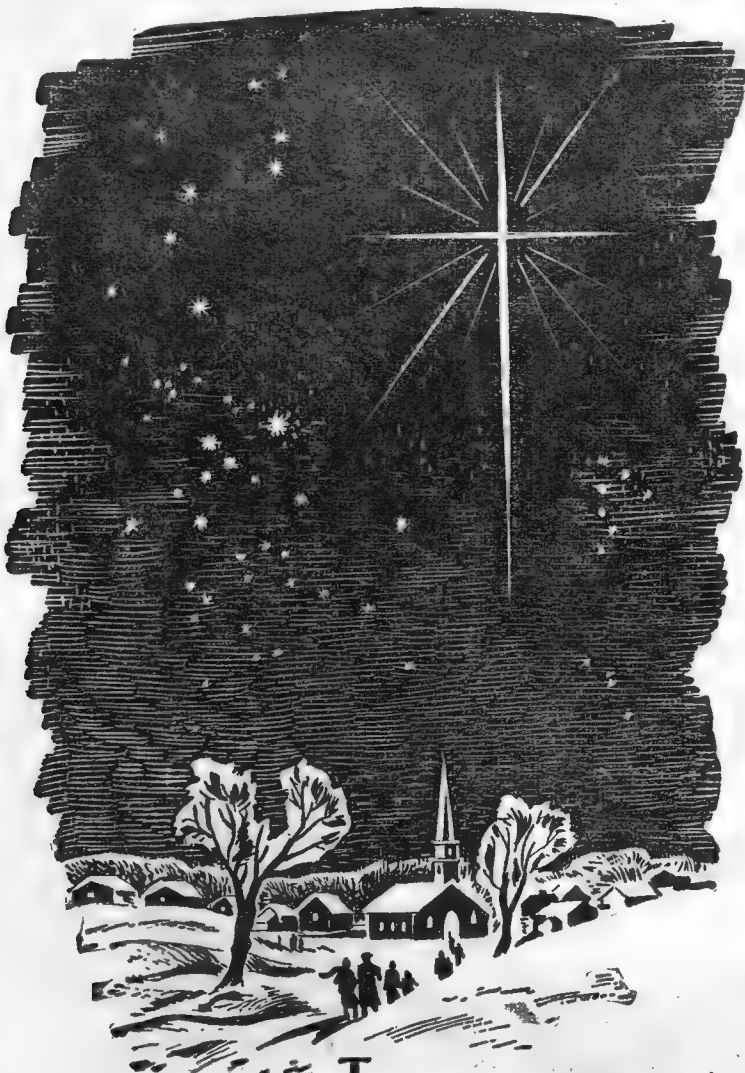
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OUR ADS ARE NEWS



TO ALL OUR FRIENDS
A JOYOUS
CHRISTMAS SEASON AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
from **EATON'S**

Farm and Ranch Housewife
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE RURAL WOMEN OF WESTERN CANADA

Good eats for Christmas!

By ANNIE L. GAETZ

"CHRISTMAS is coming, the the goose is getting fat." This is the theme song of many a small boy or girl in the home when Christmas is in the offing. It may not be a goose or a turkey or even a chicken this Christmas; but whatever the fare is to be, let the occasion be a festive one. Remember that festivity does not altogether depend on the outlay of money.

Long before the season arrives, menus should be planned carefully and written down, so that nothing will be forgotten. This relieves the mind of confusion, and leaves one free to deal with the unexpected things that are sure to crop up. Times are not what they used to be, when the basement shelves groaned under the weight of good things, kept in readiness for the unexpected guest.

Unless planning and preparations are done early, Christmas is bound to be a season of hectic rush; and to the mother in the home it is just a mad whirl. Cookies, put away in crocks or other tight containers, are a great help. There should be a good variety and plenty of them. Following are suggested menus. You may use them as a base, and substitute as you please.

Christmas Eve Buffet Supper
Sliced cold meat, either roast beef, pork, beef or potted meat; scalloped hot potatoes; jellied tomato salad; pickles; buttered rolls; mince tarts or Christmas snow, Christmas cake, cookies, coffee.

The above can be served as an ordinary supper, or as a buffet supper. For the latter, place the dishes, cutlery, pepper, salt, napkins, cream and sugar, all towards one end of the dining-room table. The hostess, or someone else chosen, sits at the other end where the cups are placed and she pours the coffee. Whenever the call is given, "eats are ready, come and get them," the guests file into the dining room. Each guest picks up a plate, what she wants in the line of cutlery, helps herself to the eats which have been placed either on the table or the buffet, gets her cup of coffee with trimmings and carries her supper back to the living room. The hostess invites the guests to replenish their dishes if they wish. Usually, card tables or small tables about the room provide the guests with a resting place for the coffee at least. Following the supper, the guests take their dishes to the kitchen.

A supper of this sort relieves the hostess of work, is very informal, and usually lots of fun.

Christmas Dinner: Appetizer (tomato juice or fruit cup); roast turkey, goose or chicken,

with dressing; gravy, mashed potatoes, mashed turnips and creamed cauliflower or peas or creamed parsnips; cranberry sauce or currant jelly; celery, olives, dills; plum pudding with sauce or hot mince tarts or ice cream; tea or coffee.

Supper or Late Christmas Snack: Sandwiches (assorted fillings) or buttered bread or rolls, crackers, cheese, pickles, tarts, Christmas cake, cookies, nuts, tea, coffee.

White Fruit Cake (Inexpensive): ¾ cup butter or margarine, 1 cup white sugar, ½ tsp. vanilla, ½ tsp. vanilla, ½ tsp. almond extract, 3 eggs, 1 cup raisins, 1 tsp. salt, 1 cup chopped candied or maraschino cherries, 2¼ cup all-purpose flour or 2½ cups pastry flour, 1 tsp. baking powder, ¼ cup fruit juice (lemon or orange) or milk.

If desired add ¼ lb. citron peel slivered thin, candied peel and almonds or other nuts. Makes 2¼ lbs. cake.

Jellied Tomato Salad: 1½ tbsps. gelatine, 2 cups tomato juice, 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce or ¼ tsp. pepper, 1 tsp. sugar, ½ tsp. salt, ½ cup chopped celery, ½ cup relish or chopped cucumber pickle.

Soak gelatine in ¼ cup tomato juice, then add 1 cup boiling tomato juice and stir. Add remaining ¾ cup tomato juice and seasoning. When mixture is slightly thickened, add celery and relish. Pour into molds, muffin tins will do, and chill. Serve on lettuce with mayonnaise.

Chicken Salad: 2½ cups cooked chicken, in pieces, 2 tbsps. minced green or red peppers, or pimento, or minced cucumber pickle, 1/3 cup mayonnaise, 1 tbsp. lemon juice, 1 cup diced celery, ½ cup diced apple, ½ tsp. salt, ⅛ tsp. pepper. Toss lightly with two forks. Serve on lettuce leaves. Serves 6.

Mincemeat (Uncooked and without meat): 1½ cups suet, 1 lb. raisins, 1 lb. currants, 3 cups brown sugar, ½ lb. mixed peel, 4 lbs. apples (put through coarse blade of grinder unpeeled), 2 lemons put through grinder and juice of one other, ½ cup juice from jar of fruit, 1 tsp. nutmeg, ½ tsp. salt. Mix and seal.

Steamed Carrot Pudding: 1 cup finely chopped suet, 1¼ cups brown sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup each grated raw potato and raw carrot, 1 cup grated apple (optional), ¼ cup almonds or nuts (if desired), 1½ cups raisins, 2 tbsps. water or fruit juice, 1 tsp. soda, 1 cup currants, or more raisins and peel, ½ cup mixed peel chopped, 1½ cups all-purpose flour or 1 cup flour and 1 cup soft bread crumbs, ½ tsp.

Every minute is precious!

By LOUISE PRICE BELL



MOTHERS should try and realize that every single minute that they spend with their children is really very precious. Childhood is fleeting, at best, and no matter how tired mothers get they should feel that they are lucky to be able to grow weary caring for their own little ones. Those who have no children may not grow tired and may have much more

time to themselves, but they also have no chubby little arms to twine about their necks. And later no grownup sons or daughters to help them enjoy life. Happy motherhood is the right kind of motherhood and those who don't keep happy and smiling may some time regret their impatience with the smallesters they are fortunate enough to have as their own!

each salt and cinnamon, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. each nutmeg, cloves and allspice.

Cream sugar, suet and egg, add potatoes, carrots, fruit and nuts. Sift flour, salt and spices and add alternately with water in which soda is dissolved. Blend well and turn into buttered container, cover and steam for $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours, steady. Uncover, cool and store in a cool place. To serve, re-heat $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. Serves 12.

Hard Sauce (for above pudding): $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar, 3 tbsps. flour, few grains salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold water, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups boiling water, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tbsps. butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla. Blend sugar, flour, salt and cold water, mixing well. Add boiling water and other ingredients, cook till thickened.

Christmas Snow (Dessert): $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornstarch, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt, 2 egg whites, 2 cups boiling water, 1 lemon and grated rind.

Mix cornstarch, sugar and salt, and gradually add boiling water, stirring. Cook till thick and clear, about 5 minutes. Add

lemon juice and grated rind and pour slowly over beaten eggs, folding gently till blended. Serve with:

Holly Sauce: 2 tbsps. sugar, 1 tsp. cornstarch, pinch salt, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla, 2 egg yolks or 1 egg.

Mix sugar, cornstarch, salt, add 1 cup milk and beat in double boiler. Beat eggs slightly, add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk and add slowly to hot mixture, stirring. Cook slowly till thick, about 10 minutes, remove from heat, add flavouring and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup maraschino cherries (optional). Serves 6.

Soap Flake Snow

Here's how it's done: Use three or four cups of soap flakes to one cup of warm water. Beat with electric beater or hand beater until smooth and fluffy. Then spread immediately over branches of tree, scattering it on with hands.

For sparkle, spread on some artificial glistening snow.

PURITY

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CHRISTMAS SHORT BREAD

1 cup soft butter $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sifted fruit sugar or
2 cups Purity Flour, sifted fine granulated white sugar

Method:

1. Cream butter till very soft, then work sugar in well.
2. Add sifted flour gradually until a very stiff dough is formed.
3. Turn out on a floured board and knead, adding more flour if necessary until dough begins to crack.
4. Roll out thin, no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, cut with Christmas cutters, stars, bells, wreaths, trees and decorate suitably with silver balls, slivers of citron peel and red candy balls.
5. Place on a floured baking sheet and bake in a slow oven 325° F. until lightly browned.
6. Cool on a wire rack and store in an air-tight tin. This short bread may be made well in advance of Christmas as it improves on standing.



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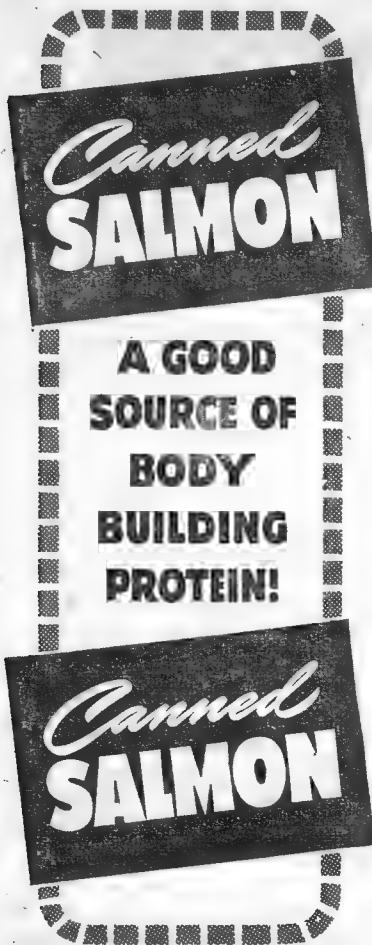
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MOVING? Be Sure To Notify
the FARM AND RANCH

Let's Ask Aunt Sal...

THERE are few of the questions handled in the following lines that actually are of the yuletide nature, but there is a new year coming over the horizon and every year presents problems of just such a varied collection as these.

Q.: I've named this the KEY QUESTION of the month which calls for help from all readers who feel they'd like to chip in and give of their own experience to help the lady in distress.

"We are furnishing our home bit by bit as we can afford it. The kitchen is done and the living room was supposed to be done next. But after the kitchen came the hail! I'm hoping that some of your readers can give me ideas that will be inexpensive to carry out. I've started with a large braided rug... but what next?" ('Kay')

Come on kind readers and friends, give Kay ideas that cost little except in work and of course rural women don't count their time and work as 'expense' do they?

Q.: Would like an address where I can get rhinestones for necklaces... ones with glass backs and holes for thread...

not the tin ones. (Mrs. A. H. Kinistino, Sask.)

A.: I cannot give any address for this... why not write to the personal shoppers of some of the large mail order houses?

Q.: I want a recipe for a pudding that calls for water and brown sugar into which you put a cake batter. (Miss M. G. Medora, Man.)

A.: I think this fits the description above. It is called: RAISIN DELIGHT.

Cook the following five ingredients together: 1 cup brown sugar, 1 tblsp. butter, 2 cups raisins, 3 cups boiling water, 1 tsp. vanilla. Then make a batter of these: 1 tblsp. butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 1/4 cups flour, 2 tsp. baking powder, 1/2 cup milk. Pour this batter into greased baking dish and pour the syrup over it. Bake in moderate oven 25 minutes.

Q.: (repeat) Have you a recipe for a cake called Poreupine Cake?

A.: I still can't find one of this name but I wonder if this isn't about the same?

SELF ICED CAKE

1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 4 eggs, 2 tblsp. milk, 1 cup sif-

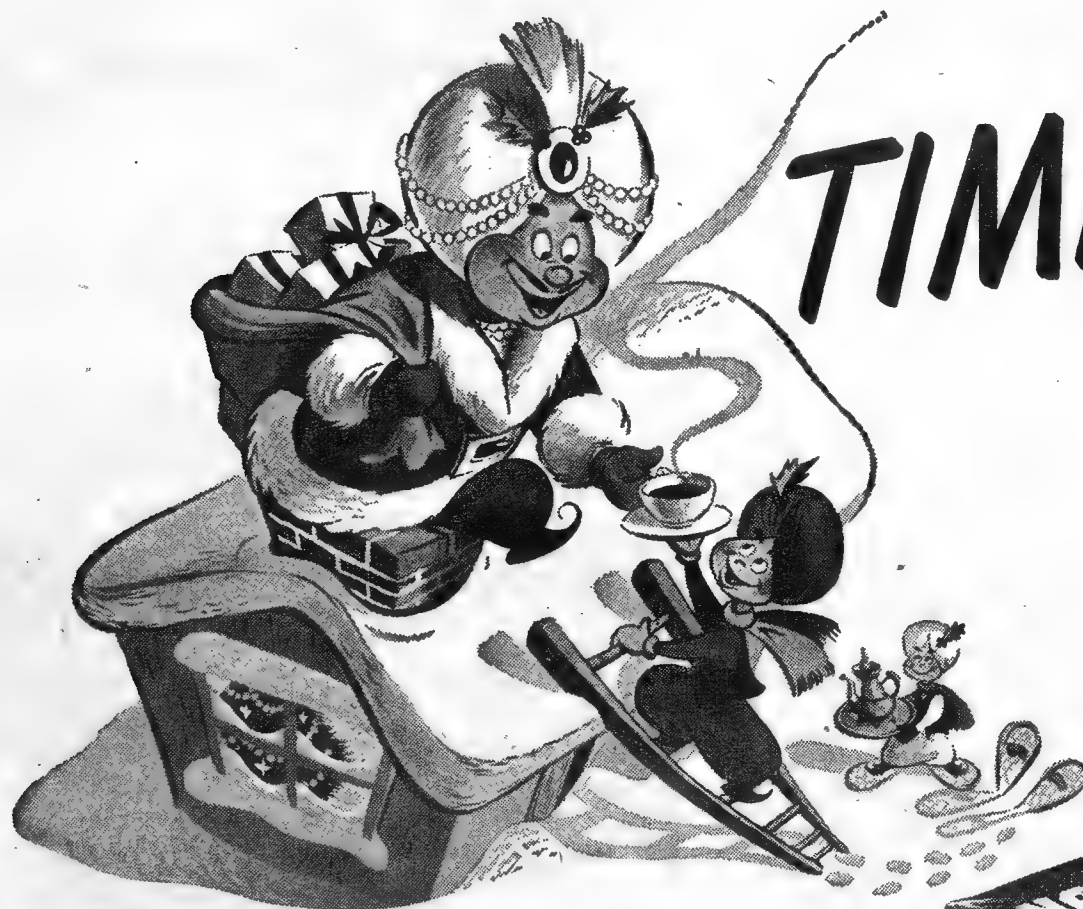
ted flour, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1/8 tsp. salt.

METHOD: Cream butter and sugar and beaten egg yolks. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together and add to butter mixture alternately with milk. Pour into lined cake tin. Beat egg whites stiff but not dry. Fold in 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 cup grated coconut. Spread over batter and bake 45 to 55 minutes at 300 F.

Q.: I have trouble cooking with unsweetened condensed milk such as scalloped potatoes, milk puddings or candy. It always curdles. Do you know any way to overcome this? (F. H., Bentley, Alta.)

A.: You should use this with equal amount of water to make it equal to like amount of cow's milk. Do you do this? How about trying just a pinch of baking soda stirred into the milk and water before baking? Heat the scalloped dish gradually, don't have oven too hot at start.

Q.: Each Christmas a Belgian lady used to send us a box of very hard, very short, very sweet and delicious cookies made on a waffle griddle. This lady has passed away now and how I would like to get this



TIMELY! ★



recipe. Have you got one? (Mrs. O. L., Wanham, Alta.)

A.: I've done considerable searching but haven't found one yet that really seems to match the description. I'm about ready to bet that before another Christmas rolls round one of the readers will come across with it. As a substitute here is a very fine cookie recipe you should try and enjoy this Christmastide.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES (To be cut into wreaths, stars etc.)
5 eggs well beaten, 2 cups white

sugar, 1 cup finely shredded citron, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely chopped candied cherries, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup almonds, $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups cake flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cloves, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt.

Mix together and make into roll and leave overnight slicing them next morning. Bake in moderate oven 15 to 20 minutes. Note: If you want to roll the dough and cut out yuletide shapes then omit the citron, cherries and almonds and place these or other garnish on top.

AUNT SAL SUGGESTS--

The Christmas bells ring out again,

At this glad time of year:

Oh let us all send greetings out,

To friends both far and near.

Regular readers of this page will notice that I've been choosing one 'pet' question sent in and asking all and sundry to give their solutions to the problem it contained. My mail tells me that this idea is catching on by popular consent so I think I shall continue this idea each month (until you tell me to stop!)

The question we are dealing with this month was that one touching on why does some home made bread develop a stickiness in the core of the loaf about three days after it is baked . . . especially in hot weather.

Before giving credit to the first dozen letters that were rushed in to me touching on this problem I'll mention that I wrote to the Science Service Lab. at Lethbridge for scientific advice on this problem but they replied that this was out of their territory but they forwarded my letter to the Plant Science Dept. at Edmonton University. I'm sorry that their reply has not reached me in time to place in this issue.

And now for the letters! Again I'll just attach the initials in accordance with some requests. Almost all of these home cooks agree the unlikely condition is called 'rope' . . . it is a bacteria that comes in the flour and the simplest way to

get rid of it is the use of vinegar in the sponge.

Mrs. C. P. writes: "Put two tblsp. of white vinegar in the water in which you mix your sponge and you'll have no more trouble."

Mrs. A. M. writes: "I found that the vinegar was a sure cure for this trouble . . . use 2 tblsp. vinegar to 4 cups of liquid and you won't have this trouble again."

Mrs. H. S. writes: "After this rope germ gets into the flour it multiplies very fast so you must wash everything, that is flour sifter, roller, bin, etc. with vinegar before placing any new flour in the old bin."

Mrs. J. K. advises the same vinegar treatment but she differs some in the amount of vinegar used . . . she writes, "2 to 3 tblsp. for 7 or 8 loaves of bread."

I honestly wish that I could quote every single letter in full for they were all so good and eagerly helpful . . . but space will not allow.

Other fine letters came from Mrs. P. K., Mrs. A. K. (she thought the fault was in the yeast but the rest have overruled you, Mrs. K.) Mrs. H. C., Mrs. R. S., Miss A. H. (who thought the bread had been put in too hot a place after baking and also advised adding whole wheat flour), 'Home Baker' was a staunch booster for vinegar too.

Bye bye for now . . . and every good wish for a Merry, Merry Christmas.

The Dishpan Philosopher

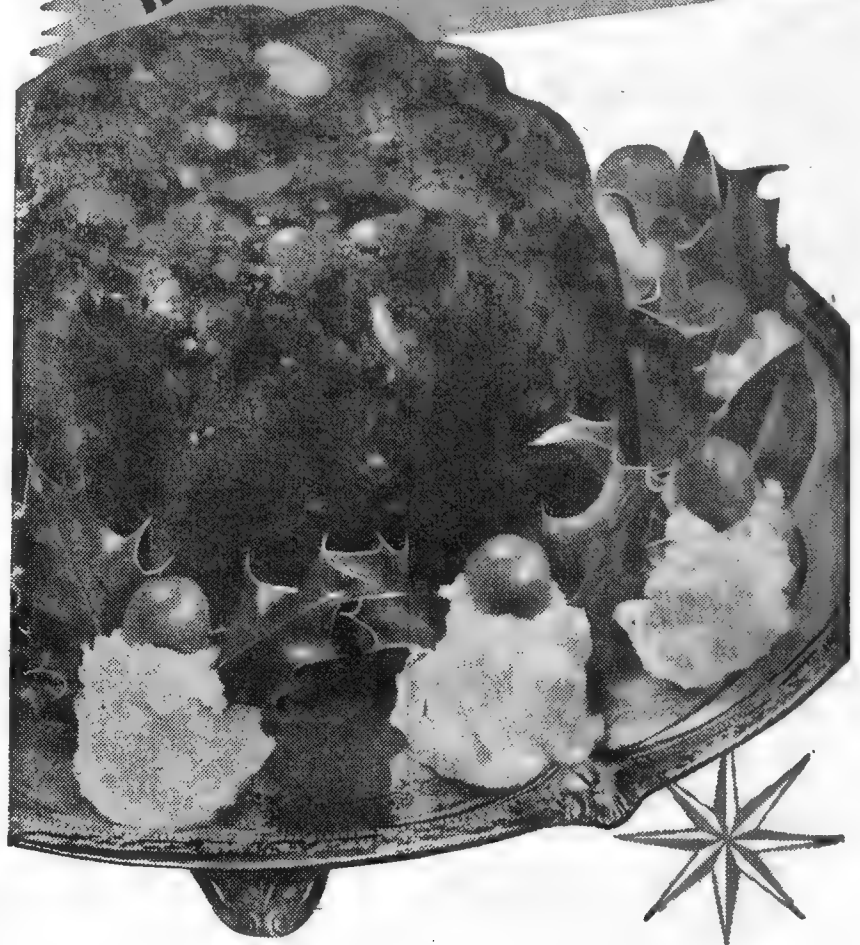
THIS year, so old and tired and gray, will very soon be on its way. And whether it was good or bad, or even just a little mad, remains for history to tell. I don't suppose we used it well . . . So much we had resolved to do, as people and as nations too, is still undone and will, it's clear, be carried forward to next year. So let's not idly preach and prate of 1952's clean slate. The thing we really have to do is very carefully review mistakes of 1951 and with these same mistakes be done.

Christmas, which now draws very near, renews our faith from year to year that some day world-wide goodwill shall dreams of brotherhood fulfil. I guess that's why when New Year starts hope springs afresh within our hearts.

Sing Heigh-ho!

for this sumptuous

MAGIC FRUIT PUDDING



HERE'S the fruitiest fruit pudding . . . and the most delectable texture and taste that ever tempted a sweet tooth! It's Magic's modern version of a marvellous old recipe—and the result is right out of Dickens!

Hurry and get those fine, fresh ingredients from your grocer's new stocks! You know how good your pudding's going to be, for you choose everything yourself! And Magic rewards you with that wonderful light texture . . . brings out the spicy-rich goodness of each ingredient. At less than 1¢ per average baking, dependable Magic protects results whenever you bake!



MAGIC FRUIT PUDDING

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. seedless raisins
1 c. currants
1 c. cut-up seeded raisins
 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. cut-up mixed candied peels and citron
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. almonds, blanched and halved
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. once-sifted pastry flour or $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. once-sifted all-purpose flour
3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground ginger
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. grated nutmeg
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground cloves
1 c. chopped suet
1 c. coarse soft bread crumbs
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ c. lightly-packed brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. shredded raw apple
1 c. shredded raw carrot
3 eggs, well beaten; $\frac{1}{2}$ c. cold coffee

Wash and dry seedless raisins and currants; add seeded raisins, peels, citron and almonds. Mix and sift 5 times, flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt and spices; add fruits and nuts, a few at a time; mix well; mix in suet, bread crumbs, sugar, apple and carrot. Combine eggs and coffee; add to pudding and mix thoroughly. Three-quarters fill greased large pudding mould with batter; cover with wet cookery parchment or with greased heavy paper; tie down. Steam, closely covered for 4 hours. Uncover pudding until cold, then wrap closely and store 2 or 3 weeks. To re-heat pudding, steam $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Serve with hard sauce or any other suitable sauce. Yield: 10 servings.

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MADE IN CANADA

Edible Christmas gifts

By LOUISE PRICE BELL

EVERYONE likes to receive "goodies" that have been made in home kitchens. Even the women who are good cooks themselves enjoy trying the results of other homemaker's culinary triumphs... and the unfortunate women and girls who can't cook, or because of working have no time to do so, especially enjoy edible Christmas gifts. The youngsters feel very proud when they take gaily wrapped cookies, or jams, or orange peels to their teachers. And the recipients are mighty pleased with the gifts!

If you make jams and jellies, and conserves, each year, you have a wonderful solution to the Christmas gift problem, in many cases. With these, you can make delightfully attractive gift packages by simply wrapping the jars in colored cellophane, or painting the jar-tops white or red and then applying

cookies in boxes, it's fun to invest in a cookie-jar (they come in all prices from inexpensive transparent ones, such as shown, to fancy ones of all styles) and give cookies and jar as a duo-gift to be enjoyed at the present, and the rest of the year. The cookies may be round ginger-bread men, square, bell-like Christmas trees or Christmas stars. They may be Santa Claus or any shape the children may suggest. And by all means, let the smallsters in the home help make these cookies; they adore the task!

Candied Orange and Lemon Peel is a popular sweet that makes a nice edible gift, and it is inexpensive and easy to make. There are two methods—long, and short, but since most homemakers are busy at this season, only the short method is given here. Incidentally, candied peel is often called a "man's candy",



Molasses Cookies go very glamorous when cut in fancy shapes and decorated in amusing ways.

gay Christmas seals when paint is dry. Paste large Christmas labels on the sides of the jars, too, and on these write in red ink what the contents of the jar is, with perhaps a jolly personal greeting added for good measure. Tie the cellophane around the top of the jar with contrasting ribbon, and slide a little spray of green or holly underneath.

If you plan to give several of these, as you might to a large family, particularly one that you felt could use a great deal of this sort of thing, here's an idea. Buy a sled in the dime store and arrange the jars in it, with a Santa from the same place in the back of sleigh.

Christmas cookies are greatly in demand at holiday time, and most families make many from tried-and-true recipes. Even the plainest cookies take on quite an air when cut in fancy shapes and decorated with icing, the little colored and chocolate "shots" on sale at this time of year, and with icings of all colors. Instead of packing the

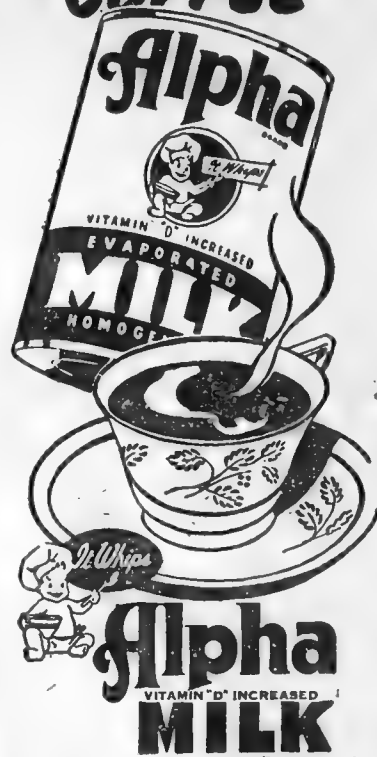
since men like it so well. Here are a couple of recipes to try.

MOLASSES CHRISTMAS COOKIES

- 3 cups sifted enriched flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1-1/3 cups molasses
- 1 tablespoon vinegar

Heat oven to 400° F. (moderately hot). Sift first six ingredients into a mixing bowl. Cut in shortening with pastry blender or fingers to resemble coarse meal. Heat molasses just to boiling point; add vinegar and gradually stir into flour-shortening mixture. Chill dough until stiff enough to roll (3 hours or overnight). Roll dough 1/16 inch thick on lightly floured board. Shape with cookie cutters. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake 6 to 7 minutes or until edges have lightly browned. Cool and decorate. Store in tightly closed

BEST-IN COFFEE

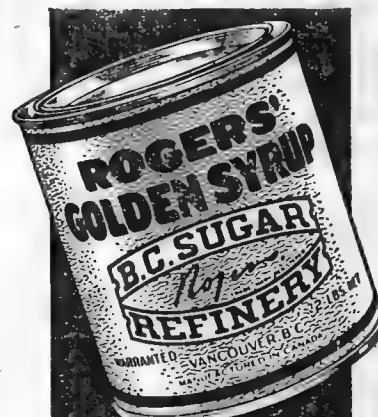
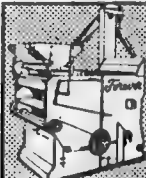


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ROGERS' GOLDEN SYRUP

tin box. Yield: About 6 dozen cookies.

Candied Peel

- 3 oranges, or 6 lemons
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup (or honey)
- ¾ cup water

Peel the fruit, and cover with water, to which salt has been added. Boil for ½ hour, then

drain and cover again with water and boil until the peel is tender. Cut into strips. Bring the sugar, syrup (or honey) to a boil and cook the peel at low temperature in this (gently) until the peel has absorbed most of the syrup. Cool for several hours, drain, spread out to dry on a rack or waxed paper until the surface syrup has been absorbed — about a day. Store in covered containers.

This cranberry-raisin pie is new!

By LOUISE PRICE BELL

PARTLY because of their pleasing and exciting color, but chiefly because both bright color and tart flavor are liked by Canadians, fresh cranberries are greeted with whoops of delight each Autumn.

Of course every homemaker serves cranberry sauce, and many other good cranberry dishes. But how about letting this new cranberry-raisin pie join your group of favorite cranberry recipes? In this pie, the stimulating tartness of cranberries is subtly blended with plump raisins. Orange rind gives the right accent, and quick-cooking tapioca thickens the pie to perfection. Yes, this recipe is a scoop — a "cranberry scoop" that will be a family favorite!

Cranberry-Raisin Pie

- 2½ tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1-1/3 cups sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup seedless raisins

- 3 cups cranberries
- 1½ cups water
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- Pastry for two-crust 9-inch pie

Combine quick-cooking tapioca, sugar, salt, raisins, and cranberries and water in saucepan. Cover and bring to a boil. Cool, stirring occasionally. Add orange rind.

Line a 9-inch pie pan with ½ of the pastry rolled ⅛ inch thick. Roll top crust ⅛ inch thick, fold in half, and cut several 2-inch slits near the fold. Fill pie shell with fruit mixture. Moisten edge of bottom crust with cold water. Adjust top crust on pie, opening slits with a knife to permit escape of steam. Trim off excess pastry, allowing it to extend ½ inch over rim. Fold excess under bottom crust and flute rim with fingers. Bake in hot oven (425° F.) 45 minutes, or until syrup boils with heavy bubbles that do not burst.



Traditions Are Universal

ONE thing about New Year traditions, they are universal, irrespective of calendar variations or the race and creed of the observants.

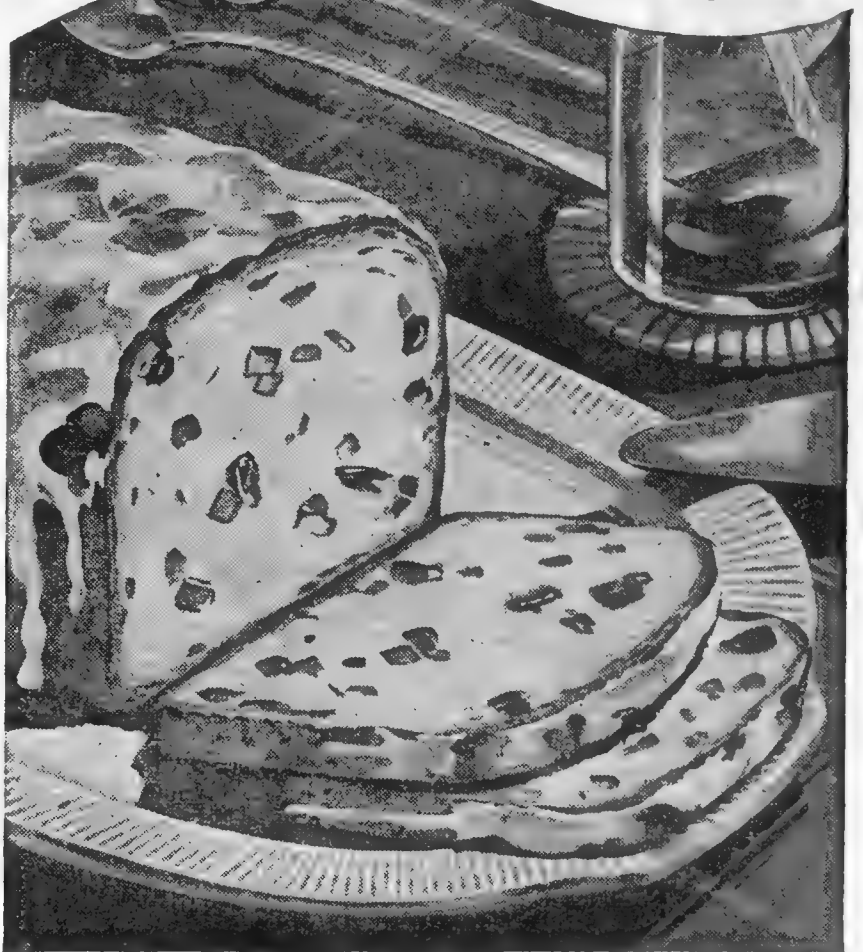
Endeavoring to get the New Year off to a good start, the Chinese pay up their debts on New Year's Eve. And the English claim it's a good idea to start a savings account on January 1, since what you do on New Year's Day is indicative of what the ensuing year will be like. A round loaf of

bread dipped in honey symbolizes Jewish hopes for a smooth (the roundness of the bread) and prosperous (the honey) New Year.

The same spirit of hospitality and socialability that makes the Wassail Bowl such a success in Scotland prompts Armenian housewives of Persia to get up extra early on New Year's Day and set about baking the traditional New Year cakes.

The baking must be done early for the New Year is the day for visiting and entertaining.

Frosty fruit loaf!



So light and luscious — made with marvellous new fast DRY yeast!

● This is the kind of treat that makes men-folks wave their arms and say: "When will you bake some more?"

And you can plan plenty more sumptuous yeast bakings, once you have in your pantry a supply of the wonderful new Fleischmann's DRY Yeast!

Yes, this grand new yeast keeps fresh and full-strength on your pantry shelf. Unlike old-fashioned perishable yeast, it never lets you down through loss of

strength. Keeps vital and active, till you're ready to bake!

If you bake at home, you can really go to town now with hot rolls, buns, desserts, and bread! No change in recipes: one envelope of the new Dry yeast equals one cake of fresh yeast. Get several weeks' supply of Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast and make this tempting Frosty Fruit Loaf tomorrow sure!

FROSTY FRUIT LOAF

Makes 3 Loaves

Measure into large bowl
2/3 cup lukewarm water
2 teaspoons granulated sugar
and stir until sugar is dissolved.
Sprinkle with contents of
2 envelopes Fleischmann's
Fast Rising Dry Yeast
Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.
In the meantime, scald
2/3 cup milk
Remove from heat and stir in
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1-1/4 teaspoons salt
6 tablespoons shortening
Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture. Stir in
3 well-beaten eggs
Stir in
3 cups once-sifted bread flour
and beat until smooth; stir in
3 cups mixture of washed and dried seedless raisins, quartered candied cherries and slivered mixed candied peels
Work in
3 cups more once-sifted bread flour
Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set

dough in warm place, free from draught; Let rise until doubled in bulk. Punch down dough and divide into 3 equal portions; form into smooth balls. Shape into loaves; place in well-greased bread pans (4½" x 8½", top inside measure and 2¾" deep). Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderate oven, 350°, 45-50 minutes. Cool and ice with Plain Icing.

PLAIN ICING

Combine 1/2 cup sifted icing sugar
2 teaspoons milk
1/8 teaspoon vanilla
and beat until smooth;



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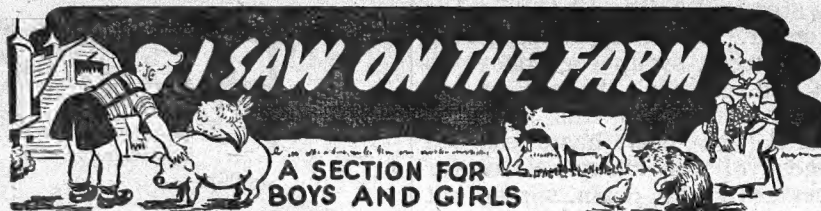
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Canadian Pacific

One day a little grey cat came to our house. She was thin and hungry. We fed her; now this is her home. She catches a lot of mice and always brings them to the back porch for us to see. One day we heard her little "meow," so we hurried out to see the mouse.

But what do you think we saw? That silly cat had brought us a grasshopper.

Maureen Lindsell.

3276 Grimmer Street,
South Burnaby, B.C.

One morning while chasing the cows to the pasture I saw a hawk fighting with a rabbit. The rabbit would run around ten feet and the hawk would swoop down right in front of the rabbit. The rabbit, seeing that it could not run forwards, turned around and started running toward the bush very tired.

Quickly I ran for the '22 to help the rabbit save its life, but when I came back I saw the rabbit running toward the bush

and the hawk trying to grab the rabbit with its claws. The rabbit got safely into the bush and the hawk flew off.

Harvey Endler.

Whitemouth, Man.

One evening about 5 o'clock my Daddy told me to put the ponies in the barn. When I came to the door I heard a strange noise. When I opened the door there was a big rattler ready to strike at me. I told Daddy there was a rattler in the barn and he came running with the gun and shot it.

Gloria Obrigewitch.

Medicine Hat, Alta.

One day last week I was taking the cows down to the creek for water. There was about 2 inches of ice so I chopped a hole in it. The water came up in the hole and to my surprise I saw a fish about 6 inches long come up through the hole in the ice.

Harvey Thompson.

Box 70, Caroline, Alta.

Amusing and useful



FOR a Christmas gift that is as useful as it is amusing, fill a small gold-fish globe or a large fat glass or jar with white candy mints, fasten a lace paper doiley over the top with Scotch tape and turn the lace edge up to look like a fancy hat. Add some angel hair (the kind used to decorate Christmas trees) and arrange it to look like real hair. Cut features for a face out of Scotch tape, using

blue or brown for eyes and eyebrows, red for rosy cheeks, nose and mouth. Add red paper streamers at the back for a gay fillip. Surround the base with greens cut from your own tree, a pine cone or two (if you have some). The person to whom you send this gift will be amused by it, eat the mints after the holidays, and use the fish bowl or glass long after that.

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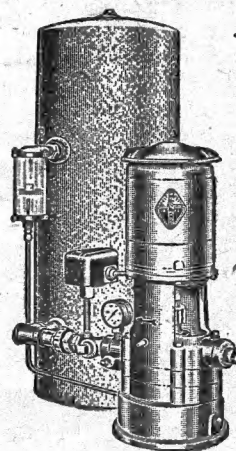
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Country Diary

CHIEFLY concerns Christmas. In this last month of the calendar we again come to a day set apart — a day distinct from any other of the year. In the beginning, very long ago, our celebrations were all kept in keeping with their religious significance, but now their original meaning has been largely obscured; as Hallowe'en, for instance, which was the "Eve of the Hallowed" of All Souls' Day, and a very solemn occasion indeed, when prayers were recited for the repose of the dead. We well know into what a night of high-jinks and merrymaking it has drifted. Likewise, generally, we have taken pleasant things like holly and mistletoe, spruce and fir-trees and evergreens, Santa Claus and mysterious reindeer, feasting and lavish exchange of presents and made them into the essence of our Christmas—far, far from the ancient rites of this Day of days when the sun ceased to sink lower and lower, and then began to climb again into the sky.

It was 1951 years ago, in a remote heaven crammed with tremulous pin-points of light that the Star shone with magical brilliance in the East and the miracle of unselfish love and good-will came to the egotistical world. We manifest our recognition of the centuries-old sacred event in our own modern way, which is not spontaneous as it should be, but often burdensome and materialistic. But with it all, the beautiful, fragrant Christmas tree stands out as the symbol of beneficence and good-will, a glowing, self-contained pageant of happiness, and young and old, rich and poor alike are aglow with warm anticipation of an indefinable something in a gay wrapper that may be marked for them on the branches of the scintillating tree. And this offering of gifts is one of the fundamentals of the original Christmas when Melchior, Gaspar and Belthazar rode their camels from their Eastern home bringing

gifts to the Infant Christ. So for many years afterwards the whole emphasis of Christmas gift-giving was solely for the children. But the adult population stole the show and changed all that. Look at the expensive, lavish articles in every department of the big stores, read and listen to the mad urging to hurry and buy, buy, buy, and see how Christmas has become commercialized. Instead of being lovely and joyous, it's just a worry and a headache.

Many of us treasure lasting mementos of a happy Christmas, such as living plants, which are not mercantile, costing only time, thought and affection. Once I received the gift of six young fir-trees from a friend's garden, which gives me continual pleasure every day of the year. Of course there are many not so fortunate as to have a plot of their own in which to store their treasures. Orange, grapefruit, lemon or date seeds potted in good soil mixed with sand and leaf-mould will make unique plant-gifts for the city folk. They will germinate and grow readily in the warmth of the house and live

Answers to Canadian Quiz

1. Joshua Slocum.
2. He left Bristol, Rhode Island, in 1909, in the "Spray", en route for the Orinoco River, and was never seen again.
3. Richard Bedford Bennett.
4. The Ottawa (Imperial Economic) Conference, 1932.
5. General, the Hon. Andrew G. L. McNaughton.
6. The cathode ray direction finder in 1926.
7. Arthur Meighen.
8. New Brunswick.
9. Fredericton, because he was so deeply moved by the action of the United Empire Loyalists.
10. Because the genuine breed of Newfoundland dogs originated here.

Solution to last month's puzzle

GROSS	LAYER	TOPIC	MARCH
ROHAN	EDEMA	ORIYA	AMOLE
OTRA	NO UN	OI AV	TE EA
VAIN	REPAST	TERRA	ANTAR
ETHANE	TO IRENE	LADDERS	
LEI	ANIS	SPORT	SIL ASE
SITS	SHOOS	STEERS	
TRAILS	SMELT	SHARE	PEST
RAIDS	GLIDE	SCANS	PRATE
AIDE	PAILS	BEARD	RAISIN
PAS	GRINE	HEARD	MASTERS
TRINE	EAGLE	BOISE	
RETAINS	ALIAS	TERNE	TAR
ARREST	SWORN	HIRES	JUNO
GIANT	STAGS	MANNA	NABOB
SEMI	SHAKE	MATTE	BOREAS
ATTIRE	CORES	BOBS	
SPA	ROLE	SEAMS	DONE
CONCEAL	DERNA	II	ELECTS
ORION	INERT	LITERS	AARS
OTAT	NA IO	ADTI	OS AU
PINTO	GLUES	DOLES	DENIM
SATIN	SARSA	ELIDE	ELITE

for many years, establishing a nice, indoor winter garden. I have known a pineapple to give variety and enhance such an exotic garden, but its whole rosette of leaves should be planted.

In fact if I were drawing up a list of appealing Christmas gifts, I would top it with an original home-grown plant, "from one nature-lover to another." There is no winter in the soul of a plant-lover. He lives with gratitude in a world of great, simple things.

Christmas Candles Used Everywhere

IT would be astonishing, indeed, if no candles appeared in homes throughout the nation on Christmas Eve. The legend which surrounds the custom is believed to have started in Ireland.

There on Christmas Eve a large candle was burned which could be snuffed out only by one named Mary. As the Irish put it: "Who knows, on some Christmas Eve, Jesus and Mary and Joseph may come again, not to Palestine, but to the Holy Isle on the farthest edge of Europe?"

Their first use for Christmas is not recorded in the annals of any nation, but that the "Christ Child Candle," burned in the window on Christmas Eve is, according to an old legend, placed there to light His way if He makes an earthly visitation and in atonement for the night of His birth when there was no room for Him.

Also among the legends is one about bayberry candles burned on Christmas.

During the early history of our country, animal fats were relatively scarce. The branches of the bayberry shrub were covered with wax-giving berries and children were given the task of gathering the berries when candles had to be made so that the animal fats could be conserved.

According to tradition, one who burned a bayberry candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day would have long life and a happy one.

An old verse reads:

"To learn your luck for the year they say,

Burn a bayberry dip on Christmas day.

If the flame burns bright and the light shines clear,

Good luck will be yours throughout the year."

Currier and Ives Cards

COMMERCIAL production of Christmas cards in the United States began about 1835 with the founding and developing of the partnership of Currier and Ives in New York.

For more than a century American painters have aided the industry by painting Christmas themes on order or by selling reproduction rights to the art which is now conservatively estimated as worth \$10,000,000 annually.

The favorite Nativity theme is represented by hundreds of interpretations. Winter scenes are next in popularity, some of them dating back to the Puritans of New England, the German forests whence St. Nicholas emerged, and even to the Druids of pre-Christian England.

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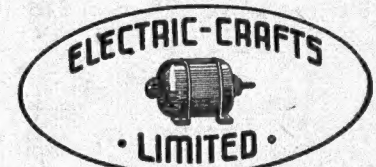
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No one of us needs to be reminded of our stake in our country's future. We invested in Canada *yesterday*—we will invest in Canada *today*.

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Floyd Gilkyson,
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The Master Farm Family Award is recognized by an award of \$1,000.00, an engraved plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance.

The purpose of the Master Farm Family program is to find and honor those who have achieved notable progress in farming, home-making and citizenship and who, by their example, are encouraging interest in farming as a way of life. The Department of Agriculture is indeed proud and gratified with the high standard of attainment among the farm citizens of Alberta as revealed by the Master Farm Family program.

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